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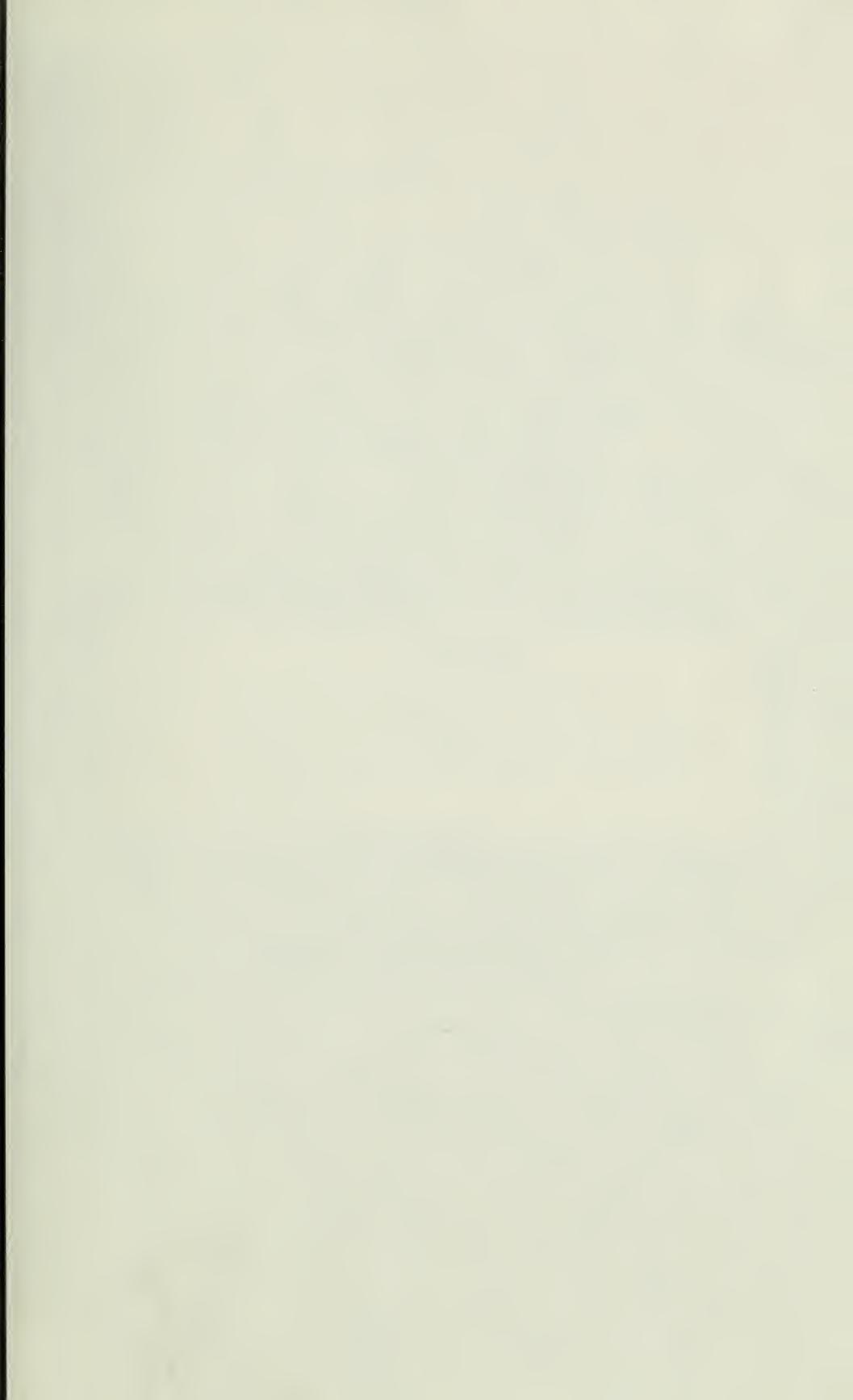
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# GALENA

*Newcomb*

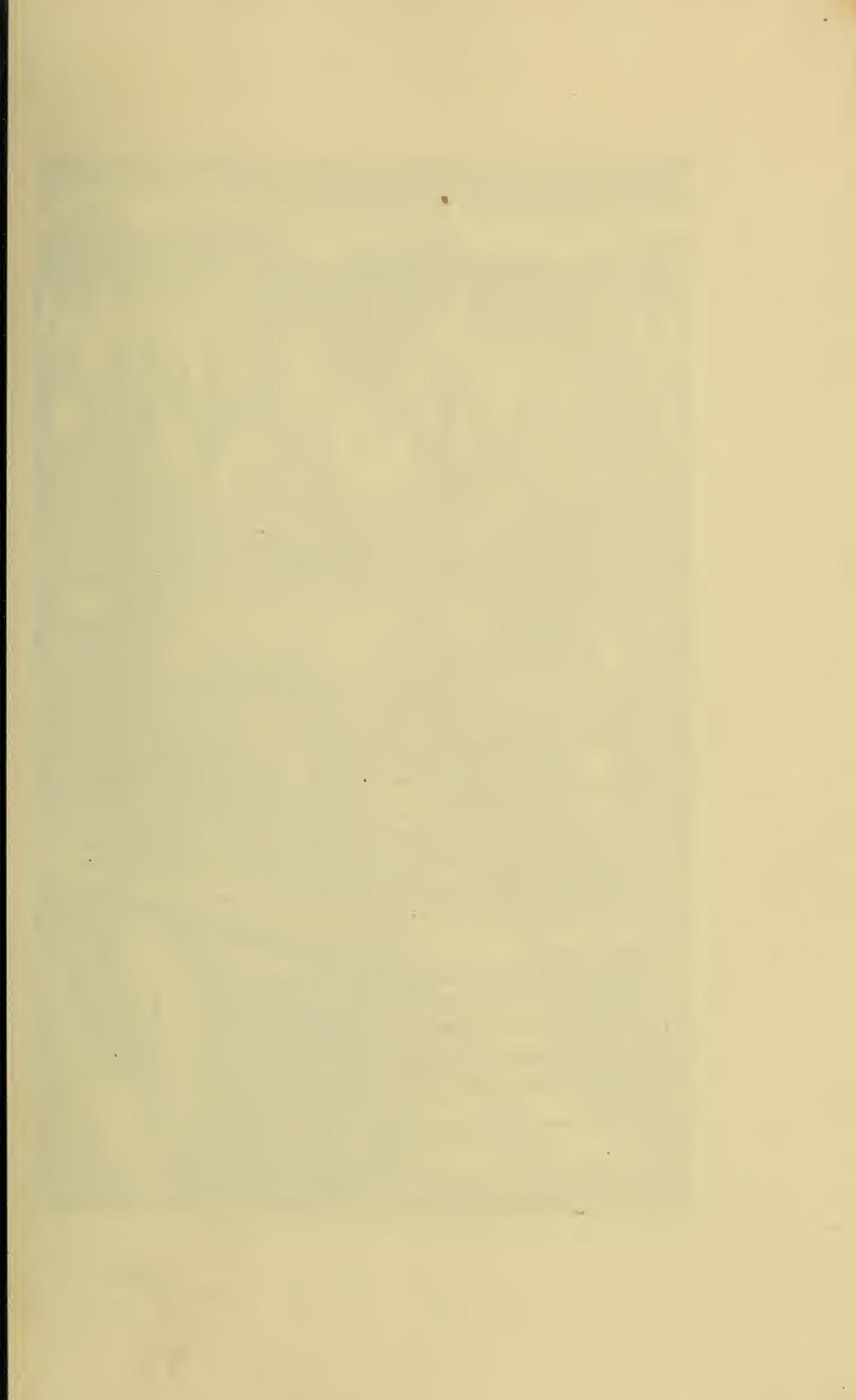
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R. NEWCOMB  
505 Nevada St.  
URBANA, ILL.

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES







American Guide Series

# GALENA GUIDE

Compiled and Written by

FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT (ILLINOIS)

Works Progress Administration



R. NEWCOMB  
605 Nevada St.  
URBANA, ILL.

Sponsored by

THE CITY OF GALENA

1937

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## Foreword

"Towns were never intended as objects of worship, we believe. Surely ours was not. But, if it were possible to have such gods, and if we were compelled to worship none better, we should choose one with a marked character in appearance; of hills and valleys, of beetling cliffs and quiet dells, far rather than a city of tame curvatures or of a level plain."

—Editorial, *Galena Daily Advertiser*, 1856.

WE whose lives have been shaped against the background of Galena's past may be inclined to accept our birthright as a matter of course without fully realizing that our little town has national significance as a unique bit of Americana.

We have come to regard Galena and its romantic past—its aging buildings with their wealth of architectural treasure—as our personal prize when as a matter of fact it belongs not only to us but to America. We of Galena are merely its custodians, holding it in trust for future generations and for the world beyond our little hills.

In this sense, we welcome those for whom Galena has an esthetic or a historical appeal. It is with a thought of preserving for ourselves as well as for the State and Nation a true word picture of the part that our city has played in the winning of the West that the City of Galena has sponsored the publication of this volume.

We appreciate the painstaking and unbiased research of the Federal Writers' Project which we believe has given us an authentic record without sacrificing the color and romance of this human narrative which mirrors a time when Galena was a key city of the Northwest. We are grateful to the Federal Art Project for the cover design and for the illustrations, which assist in portraying the Galena we love and which we invite you to enjoy.

## Preface

THE Galena Guide is first of a series of city guide books to be published in Illinois under the direction of the Works Progress Administration as represented by the Federal Writers' Project.

Authorization for work on guide books for individual cities and counties came as an aftermath of the major task allotted to the Federal Writers eighteen months ago. This task was to obtain, compile, and prepare for publication the material for guide books in the forty-eight states and the District of Columbia. These state guides are to furnish material for an encyclopedic publication to be known as the *American Guide*.

Some idea of the scope of the Federal Writers' activities may be gained from the fact that more than six thousand writers, editors, and research workers have been employed to rediscover America for the Americans as well as for foreign visitors. Many millions of words have been written dealing with resources, points of interest, economic and social development, history, and sectional peculiarities of the nation. Members of the Federal Writer's staff have penetrated every part of the country, no matter how obscure or remote.

Much credit is due volunteer associates throughout Illinois who, in every community, have helped to obtain material and insure accuracy. Those of us who were entrusted with writing the Galena Guide feel that we have been greatly favored. In Galena particularly local residents, public officials, civic, fraternal, religious and social organizations have lightened our task, and of their assistance the writers remain deeply appreciative.

# Contents

Foreword .....	5
Preface .....	6
General Information .....	8
Galena, Profile of the Past.....	9
Jo Daviess County: A Glacial Caprice.....	13
Burial Ground .....	15
Many Mines .....	17
Many Miners .....	20
Boom Border .....	25
Lead and Grain.....	32
The Fermenting Fifties.....	37
A Middle-Aged Clerk in a Faded Army Coat.....	43
Armed Years .....	46
Landmarks and Watermarks.....	50
Strolling Our Streets.....	53
Points of Interest.....	57
Environs .....	64
Chronology .....	68
Galena Bibliography .....	78
Personal Interviews .....	79
Views of Galena.....	81-95

## General Information

VISITORS to Galena will find most accommodations well-centralized; the Illinois Central and Chicago & North Western railroads, however, are at the foot of Bouthillier Street on the opposite bank of the Galena River. Three other lines, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Great Northern, and the Chicago Great Western, operate passenger trains through the East Dubuque Terminal, fifteen miles northwest of Galena. Northland Greyhound Bus Lines operate three busses daily on the Chicago-Galena-Dubuque route over U.S. Highway 20; busses also operate between Galena and East Dubuque. The Galena bus station is located on South Main near Green Street.

Galena's business area, concentrated on Main between Warren and Franklin Streets, has three hotels, several cafes, and one theater. None of the hotels offers garage accommodations, but local automobile dealers arrange for overnight storage. Two well-equipped camps stand west of Galena on U.S. Highway 20; another is four miles east of the city on the same road.

Tourist information is available at the Galena headquarters of the Chicago Motor Club, South Main at Perry and Franklin Streets, and at the American Automobile Association, Commerce and Perry Streets. For those who wish to see the city's historic sites, a guide service is provided by both organizations.

Two miles west of Galena on U.S. Highway 20 is the Galena Golf Club, a public course of nine holes with a greens fee of one dollar. Public tennis courts are in Grant Park. During the winter months the Galena River Playground, on the east side of the river near U.S. Highway 20, is converted into a skating rink.

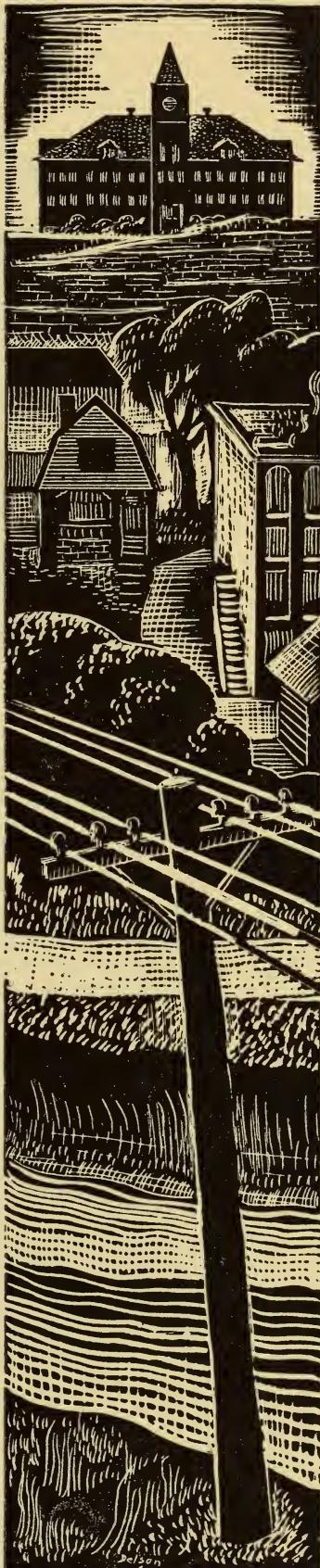
# GALENA

## The Profile of the Past

GALENA, nestling against steep hills in the quiet valley of the Galena River, is the oldest city of northern Illinois. It lies in the northwestern corner of Jo Daviess County six miles below the Illinois-Wisconsin line and four miles from the Mississippi. In 1826, while Chicago still was a swamp village, Galena was a bustling outpost swarming with miners, gamblers, traders, rivermen, and trappers. Just before the Civil War the coming of the railroads diverted its river traffic, foreign competition killed its lead and zinc enterprises, and the Galena River became unnavigable. Today it remains a county seat of 3,878 persons, remembered as a trade center of the Northwest Territory and the home of U. S. Grant.

It was one of America's early boom towns. Its beginning was that of the average mushroom settlement of the Northwest Territory, but because of its access to the Mississippi at a time when the river traffic dominated the frontier economy, the town pushed itself rapidly toward hegemony of the Middle Border. Its scattered hillside huts of log and sod gave way to substantial homes of native limestone as miners prospered, and the huddle of rough buildings along the river were replaced by brick and stone business blocks as increasing numbers of boats found Galena's wharves. By the late forties and early fifties it was Illinois' wealthiest city, its hills were studded with mansions and its overhanging bluffs resounded to the tumult of its waterfront.

Then came the railroads to divert commerce from the river towns toward cities which made good centers and terminals. Galena was left standing, the hands of its clock stopped at the moment of its greatest prosperity. Today, with its crooked little streets and weathered buildings, its gridded porticos and cast iron balconies, the town suggests a tinted etching torn from the pages of America's past.





Galena is built in a natural amphitheatre. The old commercial and industrial district is crowded into an elliptical bowl scarcely a mile long and a fourth as wide, through which Main and Commerce Streets twist, paralleling the Galena River. Terraced forty feet on the bluff above Main Street, to the northwest, are the aged churches and commodious homes of Bench Street. Above and behind Bench Street the town's chief residential section spreads fanwise against the sky, its picturesque roofs and chimneys pleasing to the eye.

Modern paving has replaced cobbles and planks, electric lights have supplanted kerosene lamps that in other days cast great shadows along the levee, and running water has replaced the water peddler's cart. Chainstores, motion picture theaters, public playgrounds, and radio shops have claimed the town. Galenians have fitted

the drama of the present to the setting of the past. Modern business thrives within walls which witnessed the barter of lead miner and Indian. Virtually no new buildings have been built on Main Street in fifty years. There has been little need for new buildings in a town which was sturdily built to accommodate 8,000 people in the 1850's. Most of the present day stores, behind modern fronts, are occupying quarters erected 80 and 100 years ago. The four and five-story buildings, rising somewhat incongruously above their smaller neighbors on Main Street, were built in the pre-war years. A variety store now occupies the old rooms of Grant and Perkins, leather workers. A creamery operates in the old commission house on the abandoned levee. The Siniger & Siniger drug store is doing business at the stand it occupied in the 1830's. An ultra-modern entrance affected by the town's motion picture theater cannot hide from old timers that the building was put up 80 years ago. It is this faculty of Galenians for moving into the future without brushing aside their landmarks that has preserved one of the quaintest spots of the Middle West.

The late Lorado Taft once declared that every stick and stone of Galena was precious to the artist and the student. He urged that the city's architectural relics be kept as close to their original state as possible. Mr. Taft was one of a group of artists who for many years made frequent visits to the neighborhood. Galena's countryside and Galena's streets have stimulated many charming canvases and etchings. Janet Ayer Fairbanks chose the city as the locale for her novel of pioneer life, *The Bright Land*, and Mac-

Kinlay Kantor wrote verses to the High School Steps, steep flights which scale the tedious hill from Main to Prospect Street.

But while Galena's chief attraction for the visitor lies in its rich lore, the modern Galenian is more concerned with the present. Because a decline in lead and zinc prices following the World War made operation of only its most productive mines profitable, the area has become largely dependent upon agriculture and small industry. Dairying is the principal agricultural pursuit throughout the county, with some attention given to raising market pork. Galena's three dairy concerns and a cheese factory handle the county's milk and cream. An axle-grease factory is one of the pioneers of that industry. The cigar factory's locally famous "Lead Mine" cigar, smoked by Galenians for several generations, maintains its popularity. A brewery, a distillery, and two stove factories operate within the city. But the smelters all are silent.

Since 1826, when Galena's first religious service was conducted in the back room of a log store on Main Street, the church has been a large part of the city's social life. Churches, of which there are now eight, were among the first permanent structures built. Some buildings here have stood over a century. They were erected when it was necessary to convey material hundreds of miles by oxen or water. Some Galenians still pray in the same pews in which their fathers worshipped six generations ago. Church bazaars and socials assist the city's communal life.

Second to the church in the minds of the early settlers was the school; hence the city has a splendid system which dates back to 1826, when Doctor John Hancock opened the first classroom. Central High School, a three-story structure at 409 Prospect Street, accommodates 625. Seminary School, 211 Jackson, is a grade school which accommodates 74. Two parochial grade schools, St. Mary's and Annunciation (St. Michael's), have enrollments of around 140 and 100, respectively.

Fraternal organizations and their auxiliaries round out Galena's social life. There are the Masonic orders, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Elks, Eagles, Royal Neighbors of America, Modern Woodman of America, Knights of Pythias and Knights of Columbus. E. D. Kittoe Post, No. 82, Grand Army of the Republic, with its auxiliary, the Ladies Circle, for many years was the leading patriotic and military organization of the city, but no members of Galena's G. A. R. now survive. Active patriotic orders at the present time are: Priscilla Mullins Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Herman Finkbohm Post, American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Galena Woman's Club, the Galena Commercial Club and the Lion's Club are active in cultural and civic programs.

Under a charter issued in 1857 Galena has a city government headed by a mayor and a council of two aldermen from each of four wards. The school board is appointed by the mayor.

The plant and pump station at the corner of Bouthillier and Park draw water from an artesian well 1,500 feet deep. A reservoir is sunk near the

old city cemetery on High Street, one of the highest points in the city. Fire protection is given by a volunteer fire department of 125 with quarters in the 100 block on Commerce Street.

Galena's decline has not discouraged its outlook. At socials, at luncheons, in the lobby of the DeSoto House and wherever Galenians congregate, there is confidence. Aware of great untapped layers of lead and zinc in their hills, they believe that Galena is capable, when the time is ripe, of regaining lost boom days.

Yet most Galenians realize that the return of prosperity would ultimately destroy the town as they know it. Its archaic buildings could not long withstand the demands of a machine age. Another boom would start the hands of the clock again, but old landmarks would be razed and the town's peculiar charm lost. It would no longer be the city that time forgot.



## Jo Daviess County: A Glacial Caprice

EDONS ago great floods and quakes formed many rivers and laid deep ores in the hills about Galena. Time stored the plain with lead, and men followed rivers to many mines. They made small markets by many streams and rammed lead into many guns. Indians mining for lead to trade to whites were digging for the very bullets which were to drive them off the land.

Millions of years of topographical mutation have so modified this area as to make it perhaps the most beautiful in the state. Flat-topped ridges are spread fingerwise above the plains, and between the plains lie the valleys. Topographical caprice has made here a region unlike any other in Illinois.

Three miles south of Galena is Pilot's Knob, a sign-post for rivermen of other days; slightly to its left is Dygert's Mound. Two miles east of the city is Horseshoe Mound, and nine miles east-by-northeast, visible on clear days, is Scales Mound. Two miles to its left is Charles Mound, 1,241 feet above sea level and the highest point in Illinois.

Two phenomena were responsible for Galena's frontier importance: upheavals which exposed the ore-bearing stone known as Galena dolomite near those rivers which were to become explorers' routes, and the glaciers which once swept the continent to leave northern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin lead and zinc fields untouched. There was no glacial debris left here to keep ores from sight.

What is now Jo Daviess County was once part of a sea bottom which stretched from the Alleghenies to the Rockies; its marine life has been recorded in the prairie rocks. Five times immense seas came and receded, each leaving a record of its peculiar life in stone. Around the last of these prehistoric seas, in the earth's middle age, there lived such huge reptiles as the Mosasaur, the Plesiosaur, and turtles weighing over half a ton. Subsequently earthquakes raised the bottom of the sea, causing the waters to withdraw into inland lakes, beds of which can be traced on both sides of U.S. 20 north of Galena.

Galena's geological significance lies in the abundance of its fossils—giant ferns, palms, and a thousand tropical growths left in the neighborhood from the recession of the last sea. Scientists depend on the region for the remains of a jungle which existed in the Cretaceous, or chalk and coal depositing era; that jungle fed an order of dinosaurs which included the 80-foot Brontosaur and the double-brained Stegosaur, a huge lizard with one brain in the skull and the other, twenty times as large, at the base of the tail. Dinosaurian fossils have been found during road building through the county, including teeth of *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, a fifteen-ton carnivore fifty feet long and twenty high.

From Apple River, on the edge of the glacial plains, canyons have been gutted between the hills. Jagged precipices bare, in successive layers, Galena and Niagarian dolomite, Maquoketa shale and Trenton limestone. Here submarine volcanoes literally cracked the ancient seabed and tilted great slices of it on end. Vast ages of water erosion widened the valleys and deepened the canyons as rivers and streams cut their way through the stone.

Had glaciers crossed the county they would have ironed out its hills and bluffs; by filling valleys with glacial drifts they would have buried the ores so deep that they might never have been discovered. Accessibility of these ores in the dawn of the eighteenth century accounts partly for Galena's frontier boom. Another happy circumstance of topography placed the center of the ore fields on a tributary of the Mississippi. Without such direct access to the sea Galena could not have become, during the 1840's and 1850's, the warehouse of the West.

## Burial Ground

HOW long Indians lived in the five hills about Galena, or what men may have preceded them, is largely conjecture; no traces of prehistoric man have been found in the region. The only remaining expressions of a human past preceding the discovery of the continent are in mounds found along river banks and hidden in small valleys throughout the county. Because of their frequency, archeologists assume that the area was long inhabited; they believe that the mounds were left by an Indian nation who, in a long retreat from the Atlantic seaboard, left one tribe, the Winnebagoes, in the Galena hills. Along the route of that retreat are found the long, the round, and the effigy type of mound, the latter so-called because it attempts a profile of some bird, beast, fish, or man—although the delineation is sometimes so vague that the layman cannot follow it.

More than 500 mounds have been located and mapped in the neighborhood, of which many have attracted students of Indian lore from all over the country. The mounds have been found most frequently along the Mississippi in Hanover and Rice Townships and along the Galena River forks in Council Hill and Vinegar Hill Townships. In the latter township, six miles north of Galena on U.S. 80, on the Birkbeck farm, is a serpent mound approximately 100 feet long. On the Leekley farm, four miles northeast of Galena in Council Hill Township, is a horse mound. A well-preserved effigy mound built against the river bluff near Aiken, in Rice Township, represents a thunder bird.

A theory which regarded the effigy mounds as the work of a race antedating the Indians has now been largely abandoned, and they are commonly credited to the Winnebagoes. It is generally supposed that the creatures depicted represent totems of various clans, and that the mounds were built to commemorate signal events and to mark burial ground. Many of the relics found within suggest the culture of ancient Mexico, while other relics are of European manufacture. It is noteworthy that the later mounds are less perfectly designed and are usually smaller. From these, and from Indian lore, archeologists and ethnologists have pieced together the story of many tribes in Illinois country. Here they built villages, erected shrines, buried their dead and finally fled before the invader.

With the discovery of the New World, European imperialism began a mad scramble for land and power. Although the Court of Rome, by a Papal edict, gave all land 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands to Spain, and all east of that line to Portugal, yet England, France, Sweden and the Netherlands refused to recognize the edict. In this they were aided by the Spanish incapacity for colonization. Spanish successes in Mexico and Peru had made all Spain eager for gold and silver, but when De Soto discovered the Mississippi

he was disappointed in the river's lack of plunderable cities. As Spanish enthusiasm for the new world began waning, the French began colonizing in Quebec, Montreal and New Orleans. These lands were claimed by France until 1763, when, following the fall of Quebec, all lands east of the Mississippi were ceded to England.

The French were traders and explorers rather than gold-seekers, and French colonial policy was greatly encouraged by the Jesuits, religious intellectuals dedicated to augmenting the power of the church. While English and Dutch colonized the Atlantic seaboard, the French penetrated the interior, established missions, forts and trading posts, and everywhere ingratiated themselves with the natives. French traders encouraged northwestern tribes to hunt fur-bearing animals, introducing them incidentally to rifles and whisky to stimulate pelt production. Subsequently, lead for bullets became a frontier essential.

A story is told by an early settler of Galena. In the winter of 1837-8 while out hunting with an old Indian, the pair came to an open prairie or plain, to one portion of which the settler's attention was called because of its circular form and the heavy growth of old weeds and grass within it. His companion offered an explanation.

"Seventy years ago this winter (1838) was the coldest winter ever known. During the winter a heavy deep snow came on, and the buffalo were snowed in. The snow fell so deep they could not travel and in making the attempt they went round and round, just like a white man when he becomes lost on the prairies. The snow was so deep and remained so long that they fell exhausted and starved, and froze to death. The carcasses decayed and enriched the ground where they died and so the weeds and grasses were different than those natural to the prairie that grew over their bones.

"After that winter the buffalo left, crossed the Mississippi and none have ever been seen since on the east side of the great river."



## Many Mines

PRECISELY when lead was first mined in the Galena region is not known, but as early as 1658 French adventurers had learned of its existence in the locality from the Sioux. Jontel, who was in the Mississippi Valley in 1687 and later recorded LaSalle's expedition, wrote: "Travelers who have been at the upper part of the Mississippi affirm that they have found mines of very good lead there." The journals of the Jesuits Marquette, La Hontan, and Hennepin mention the mineral wealth of the "Upper Mississippi."

Nicholas Perrot, Indian trader and French commandant, is generally credited with being the first white person to see Indian mines in the Galena area. Perrot established a small trading post on the east bank of the Mississippi opposite modern Dubuque in 1690, and often visited the mines. It is fairly safe to assume that other whites had preceded him, for the Indians made no use of the mineral save in barter with whites. No weapons, implements, beads, or trinkets of smelted lead or lead ore have been found by archeologists in northern Illinois. It is probable that, until instructed by whites, the Indian remained ignorant of the use of the ore.

It is possible to justify the claim of some historians that Jean Nicolet was the first European to see the Galena lead deposits, in 1634. Nicolet, an agent of Champlain, was the first European to set foot on Wisconsin earth. He is known to have ascended the Fox River in Wisconsin from Green Bay to the present site of Menasha, on Lake Winnebago. He probably took the easy portage across from the Fox to the Wisconsin River and struck the upper edge of the lead and zinc district in the neighborhood of Iowa County, Wisconsin. Thirty-nine years later Marquette and Joliet took the same route up the Fox, portaged to the Wisconsin and, arriving at the Mississippi, traveled down-

stream to the mouth of the Arkansas. They wrote of Indians encountered along the upper Mississippi:

"They do not know the use of either iron or copper and have nothing but stone knives. Their faces are painted with red lead, or ocher, which is found in great quantities a few days' journey from the village."

Other references to lead in Joliet's journal, and stories told by returned adventurers, so aroused French interest that in 1699 an expedition, under Le Sueur and Iberville, was financed to explore the mines. Pierre Charles Le Sueur, who had been along the Upper Mississippi in 1693 and had reported "mines of lead, copper, and green and blue earth," was sent with thirty men to study the region. They traveled up the Mississippi from New Orleans and reached a point near Galena August 25, 1700. Le Sueur, discoverer of the Galena River, which he called "The River of Mines," described it thus:

"It comes from the north at its mouth and flows from the northeast. Seven leagues to the right there is a lead mine, a league and a half inland. This river, except the first three leagues, is only navigable when the waters are high; that is to say, from spring to the month of June." The French land league is a trifle less than two and one-half miles.

During the two days following this entry the party pressed north ten leagues, passing two rivers and observing a lead mine at which Le Sueur supplied himself. Those rivers are now known as the Platte and the Grant, which empty into the Mississippi between East Dubuque, Illinois, and Potosi, Wisconsin, and the mine was probably one in the Potosi area later named "Snake Diggings."

The Galena River was presented on a map published in Paris in 1703 by William Delisle, Geographer for the French Academy of Science, as "La Rivière des Mines," Le Sueur's name. Another map published about the same time calls the river the "Rivière de Parisien." During the next 150 years before it was officially named Galena, the river was known as "La Rivière de Fève," or Bean River, Fielle and also Fever River.

The great mining fields depicted on early French maps, combined with glowing tales of upper Mississippi minerals, resulted in the mine area being included in the famous wildcat promotion scheme launched in Paris in 1717 by John Law, Scotch adventurer, whose financial juggling almost bankrupted the French government and impoverished many wealthy nobles. Law feigned that the mines were under extensive development by his "Company of the West." After the company's stock had been pyramided dizzily, it collapsed, and the venture became known as the "Mississippi Bubble."

In 1715 the governor of Louisiana, La Mothe Cadillac, led a party of Frenchmen and Indian guides up the Mississippi in search of silver, but found none. Cadillac penetrated the Illinois country, it is believed, to present-day Dubuque, for he returned with samples of lead ore which he found "fourteen miles west of the river."

The first definitely business-like French effort to explore the lead mines was conducted in 1721 when Phillip Francois de Renault, newly appointed

director-general of mines of the "Royal India Company in Illinois," came with a well-equipped company of 200 miners and 500 San Domingan slaves. The latter were probably the first Negroes and the first slaves to visit this part of the country. Renault's Frenchmen were experienced woodsmen and prospectors, and took ore from both sides of the Mississippi. They established a settlement in the vicinity of Galena and mined there for some time. Renault is known also to have had a settlement in Monroe County, Wisconsin, during four years spent in upper Mississippi territory. It is possible that some of his prospectors remained after he returned south, and that other independent prospectors came into the area during the two decades which followed, for, in 1743, M. LeGuis found 18 or 20 miners operating along the Fever River. He described them as "a fast lot" who mined only superficially, taking out the easily accessible surface lead, and only enough of that to satisfy immediate needs.

Although little is known of the lead country from the time of LeGuis until the early eighteenth century, it is certain that mines were operated in that interval by independent bushrangers, Indian and white. French missions and trading posts littered the Mississippi Valley from the Great Lakes to Louisiana, and French soldiers, trappers, and hunters came to depend on the valley's lead for bullets.

Two important French outposts were at Kaskaskia, at the mouth of the Illinois, established about 1700, and Fort Crévecoeur, later Peoria; the latter was nearest the mines. By 1721 Kaskaskia was a sizable settlement, with a stone monastery, a church, several large warehouses, and a brewery. At Cahokia several mills and a large farm were operated by priests with Indian assistance. There were at least 500 whites in the Illinois territory at this time.

In 1769 Milony Duralde of St. Louis received permission of Louis Saintange de Bellrive, local commandant, to work lead mines reputed to be 160 leagues up the Mississippi, but, so far as is known, did not take advantage of the concession.

Perhaps history overlooks the region in this period because of the greater importance of contemporary events in Europe and along the Atlantic seaboard.

## Many Miners

FOUR years after the fall of Quebec France ceded all lands east of the Mississippi to England and all lands west of the river to Spain. During the American Revolution a regiment of Virginians under Colonel George Clark ousted the British from their French forts, and Illinois country was subsequently claimed by Virginia, of which Patrick Henry was governor. Clark's expedition was the only phase of the revolution which directly touched this region.

The Illinois country was officially ceded to the American federation of states at the close of the revolution, but it was not till 1809 that the Illinois Territory was organized, with a seat of government at Kaskaskia and a population of 12,282.

In 1778 a Frenchman from Cahokia came into the lead country and opened a trading post on the west side of the river. Julien Dubuque was a well educated young fellow with a good deal of drive, and in time he wheedled extensive mining concessions from the Indians. Until his death in 1810 he was the most persistent and prosperous miner in the area. He took a native wife, was granted tribal privileges and allowed to work mines concealed from other whites. Much of his lead went down-river to St. Louis, where August Choutou guarded his interests.

In 1796 Dubuque asked the Spanish governor at New Orleans, Baron Carondelet, for the right to continue operating his plantation and mines, known as "The Spanish Mines," and permission was granted. From then on he confined his operations to the site of modern Dubuque. The fact that "The Spanish Mines," later "The Dubuque Mines," were claimed as private property, kept other miners on the east side of the river. They preferred prospecting Indian territory or public lands to the east. Thus it was that many sought the Fever River claims.

In 1810 the United States Indian agent at Prairie du Chien went afoot from Fort Crawford to Fort Armstrong (Rock Island) and returned. He spent the greater part of the year in the interior and found that the Sauk and Fox were mining and smelting lead extensively. Lead and money at this time were equal mediums of exchange. At trading posts a peck of lead bought a peck of corn.

In 1816 a Mississippi riverman who frequently stopped at the mines, Captain John Shaw, reported that the Indians were working a mine known as the Buck, just north of the present limits of Galena, and had twenty crude smelters. Shaw on one occasion bought 70 tons of lead without exhausting their supply. Between 1815 and 1820 Shaw made eight trips between St. Louis and Prairie du Chien, stopping at Galena to pick up white passengers and Indian lead. Colonel George Davenport, after whom the city of Davenport

port was named, shipped the first boatload of lead ore from the Fever River mines to St. Louis in 1816.

John and Tyler Armstrong, the first Americans to build a permanent home in Galena, came from Green Bay, down the Fox, to Portage, Wisconsin, crossed the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi, and went up Fever River to the mines, where they found Indians smelting. The Sauk and Fox took them to the Buck mine where they had penetrated 100 feet and were hauling up earth and mineral in skin sacks. Where rocks interposed the squaws built fires against them and then cracked them by dousing with cold water. The Armstrongs built a cabin on the east bank of the river and lived there during the winter of 1818, after which they located in Deel Creek, Wisconsin. Shortly after, Francisco Bouthillier, interpreter at Prairie du Chien for the British government, took over the deserted Galena cabin of the Armstrongs and later established the first local ferry service.

Jesse W. Shull, after whom Shullsburg, Wisconsin, was named, and Dr. Samuel Muir, with an Indian wife, came to the settlement in 1820. The settlement's first white woman arrived the following year, the wife of a Kentucky trader by name of Thomas January. The Januaries built a log cabin on what is now January's Point, at the north end of the city. Six or eight boats, carrying possibly 100 men, made the voyage in two weeks from St. Louis to Galena in 1819 and thereafter a steady stream of traders poured into the settlement.

Colonel Davenport, trader and colonial promoter, established a trading post at "The Portage" of the Fever and Mississippi Rivers in 1821 with Farrar and Farnham. This was a point near the junction of the rivers at which boatmen unfamiliar with the channel sometimes landed. Several years later settlers dredged a canal through the portage, and this entrance to the river was used thereafter. The site of this trading-house, which later became known as the American Fur Company's post, is three miles below Galena.

The post of Davenport and the surrounding mines attracted many Indians to the neighborhood, where they built villages on the river banks. Black Hawk, among other chiefs of the Sauk and Fox, mined an entire summer near the present site of Galena. Until the whites provided better tools, the Indians mined with sharpened sticks and deer-horn prongs, and had smelting methods equally crude. A hole two feet wide and deep was dug in sloping ground in the shape of a millhopper, in the bottom of which a grate of narrow stones was laid eight or nine inches square; a trench was dug from the sloping ground inward to the hopper's bottom. The channel was a foot in width and height, was filled with dry wood and brush, the hopper filled with ore, and the fuel ignited. The molten lead fell through the stones at the bottom of the hopper and thence was discharged through the trench into an awkward mould. The consequent lump, weighing about 70 pounds when cooled, was called a "plat" and corresponds to the "pig" of contemporary methods.

The spreading fame of the region brought in a rush of squatter miners in the early 1820's. Galena became known by the French as "La Pointe," as the "Fever River Diggings," and later as the "Bean River Settlement."

Although by an act of March 3, 1807, Congress provided for a leasing of mineral lands, no licensed mines were operated until 1822, when the first lease was granted Colonel James Johnson, brother of Richard M. Johnson, later a vice president of the United States. The lease was for three years and Colonel Johnson brought twenty white miners and 150 slaves with him from Kentucky. The landing of the keel boats of miners and slaves was resisted by the Winnebagoes, who insisted that they had never ceded the land as had the Sauk and Fox. It was several days before Johnson effected a landing, by dint of many gifts.

Johnson built cabins and a wharf and began the first successful operation of mines in the Fever River settlement. The following year nine more leases were issued by the government. La Pointe began to grow.

The Virginia, en route from St. Louis to Fort Snelling, entered the Fever River in 1823 and docked at Johnson's crude wharf; it was the first steamer to enter the little river. In the same year Dr. Moses Meeker began smelting. In that year of 1823, 425,000 pounds of ore were shipped from the settlement, and within six years annual production had risen to 13,000,000 pounds. By 1824 the little settlement was bustling with activity as new mines, smelters, stores, and taverns opened, and cabins began rising far out among the hills. One of the general stores to open that year was operated on January's Point by Frederick Dent, later father-in-law to Ulysses S. Grant. Like all the stores and trading posts of the period, Dent's supplied miners with apparel, food, tools, hardware, and liquor. He accepted lead ore, pelts and furs in barter. He held a government contract to supply all forts along the upper Mississippi.

Movers from the South Central states modified the Galena settlement, for many pioneers had come up the Mississippi from towns along the Ohio and Missouri. Their cabins were rough stone and sod, or semi-dugouts of rough logs built against bluffs and chinked with sticks and stones and daubed with mud. Even in the more substantial homes, stick-chimneys were arranged like rail pens and covered thickly with clay to protect them from fire. With the development of the colony, the houses were built of logs chinked neatly with stone and plastered with lime mortar. These white-washed one-story structures had small attics floored with rough-hewn logs and were sometimes lighted by a small gable window; such attics were often nurseries. Some homes were double log houses which have evolved into homes one sees in the city today. These, of brick, are distinguishable by their chimneys, two at each end of the gable. Their predecessors were double homes under one roof, with a middle passage. This type of structure was less suited to the climate of northern Illinois than to that of the South Central states. It is probable that it was in such a house that Galena's first white child, James Smith Hunt, was born in 1824.

Early Galenians enjoyed many modern table luxuries; their streams and woods abounded with fish and fowl. Every spring and fall countless flocks of wild geese, following the Mississippi, darkened their skies. The fields were alive with prairie chickens and quail.

Housewives knit stockings and fashioned clothes for the entire family after carding wool and spinning it into yarn, from which they wove cloth. Baking bread meant grinding whole grain into flour. Beside their normal household duties, the women found time to help in the fields.

By 1824 the Fever River mines had become of importance sufficient to warrant issuance of mining leases. The federal government appointed Lieutenant Martin Thomas, U. S. army, St. Louis, as special mine agent. The first lease provided for a ten per cent royalty on the lead produced, a rate later reduced to six per cent. Royalties were paid with regularity only briefly; after 1843, as a result of immense numbers of illegal entries of mineral land at the Wisconsin land office, smelters and miners refused to make further payment. The government was unable to collect. After great trouble and expense it was decided, in 1847, to sell the lands. Lead deposits in the Joplin area, discovered in 1848, attracted little attention before the Civil War, the Galena mines continuing to be the Republic's source of ore.

Growth of the settlement in 1824 and 1825 was rapid. Every steamer passing up or down the river left passengers at La Pointe. Stores and "groceries" were concentrating along the lower end of the muddy little trail that ran into the settlement from the northeast and ended at the levee—the trail that afterwards became Main Street. "Groceries" were the taprooms of the early days. Mines and farms were operating in an ever-widening area around the settlement, and La Pointe was becoming a social as well as a commercial site.

In 1825 Dr. Moses Meeker sent a prospector to the neighborhood of what is now Hazel Green, Wisconsin, twelve miles north, and a rich vein of ore was found. Here another mining settlement, dependent upon La Pointe for supplies, was established. During the next few years numerous small settlements grew up in a circle about the Fever River village.

Many of the first Fever River miners were Kentuckians and Missourians who suffered from the severe Illinois winters. Some of these came prospecting only in summer, and in fall, after disposing of their ore, returned south. Some of these came overland in covered wagons drawn by mules or oxen, bringing their families and carrying supplies for the summer months. They established wagon camps and slept in the wagons. Others came up the river every spring in keel boats and returned downstream in the fall. These Southerners were known as "suckers," because their habits so resembled those of the fish which migrated seasonally up and down the Mississippi. It was in this manner that Illinois came to be known as the "Sucker State."

Travel was difficult, by land or by water. Only the hardiest attempted the narrow trails through country often frequented by hostile Indians. Most overland travel was on horseback or in prairie schooners, but the more courageous went long distances afoot. Ax and rifle were indispensable to land travel.

Boating upstream on the Mississippi was first by keelboats propelled tediously along shore by poles, or towed by mules or towmen where towpaths

were accessible. Another method, resorted to when banks were steep and the stream deep, was "bushwacking." To "bushwack" a boat one leaned from the craft and grasped shrubs and bushes growing along the bank and thus inched the craft along. "Cordelling" was accomplished by attaching a long rope to the bow and then throwing it about a tree some distance ahead; the rope's end was then taken aboard and was hauled in until the tree was reached.

Although several kinds of boats were used in early river navigation, the keel boat, because of its keeled bottom, was the only craft of the day which could be propelled upstream against the swift Mississippi currents. Flatboats, commonly fifty and sometimes 100 feet long and twenty-five feet wide, built much like modern houseboats, were used for downstream trips. Since there was no way of returning them to their starting point they were usually sold for lumber at their destination. Keel boats were, however, the first "queens" of the Mississippi. They usually were built in the larger Ohio river settlements, floated down to the Mississippi and there could be navigated either north or south. They were pointed at stem and stern and held cargo in a great box in the center. Sometimes passenger quarters were arranged in the center also. Along the gunwales from prow to stern ran narrow walks along which polemen trudged, pushing their poles against the river bottom to force the boat against the current. Some boats used twenty polemen. The journey from New Orleans to Galena sometimes required six months.



## Boom Border

THE year 1826 is memorable in the history of the mining border for several events. On June 4 of that year the first post office of northern Illinois was established in Galena on Main and Perry Streets. Ebenezer Lockwood of Prairie du Chien was its first postmaster. Previously there had been no post office nearer than Vandalia. In this year also Lieutenant Thomas was ordered to lay out the city in lots and streets; Main and Perry and several others were accordingly laid. James Jones, an eastern journalist, launched the city's first newspaper, the Miners Journal. Doctor John Hancock opened the settlement's first school in a log cabin on Bench street, and a chaplain for the Hudson Bay Fur Company, whose name is forgotten, held the first religious service in the back room of a store on Main Street across from the present site of the De Soto Hotel. The service was attended by 25 or 30 persons, while in the store's front room a boisterous card game continued uninterrupted.

Doctor Horatio Newhall, a pioneer physician of Illinois and a native of Massachusetts, arrived in the mine settlement and remained to become one of Galena's most distinguished citizens.

But the outstanding event of the year was a little meeting of representative citizens, held December 27, to select a definite name for the community. Frederickstown, Jo Daviess, Harrison and several other names were suggested, but Richard W. Chandler prevailed upon the committee to select Galena, the Latin name for lead sulphide and the chief ore of lead.

Illinois had been a State since 1818, but its northern limits had not been clearly defined. Because the mining district was so near the boundary, many Galenians were uncertain



whether they were in Illinois or the Territory of Michigan. Doctor Newhall wrote to a brother in Lynn, Massachusetts:

"It is not certain whether I am in the boundary of Illinois or Michigan, but direct your letters to Fever River settlement, Illinois, and they will be sure to come."

The value of the region's lead yield that year was \$86,000. Lieutenant Thomas' report declared:

"The number of lead mines at Fever River are increasing rapidly. Such are the inducements to individual enterprise and industry that numbers of the most respectable inhabitants of the upper Mississippi are resorting to them."

Thomas advised his government that boat channels be dug through the rapids of the Upper Mississippi, the first near the mouth of the River Des Moines (near Keokuk), the other just above Fort Armstrong or Rock Island.

By the following year the mining area had become of sufficient importance to remove the agency of lead mines from St. Louis to Galena. Lieutenant Thomas was succeeded by Major Thomas C. Legate of the United States Army. The government invited miners and settlers to the town and permits were granted to persons to occupy and improve lots with the understanding that they might be asked to surrender them on thirty days' notice. Three hundred signed for lots that year. This was the only title residents had to lots in Galena, since the government owned all real estate in the area.

Jo Daviess County was organized in 1827 with Galena as its county seat. The name of "Jo Daviess" was chosen in honor of Colonel Joseph Hamilton Daviess, a Kentuckian, there being a predominance of Kentucky-born representatives in the state legislature that year. County commissioners were elected and a circuit judge, Richard M. Young, presided over Galena's first court of law.

A colorful description of the booming border town of 1826 was given by Doctor Newhall in another letter to his brother:

"You ask me to write a description of Fever River lead mines. This would puzzle me or any other person on the river. It is non-descript. It is such a place as no one can conceive of without seeing it. Strangers hate and residents like it.

"The appearance of the country would convince anyone that it must be healthful, yet the last season it was more sickly than Havana or New Orleans. There is no civil law here, nor has the Gospel been yet introduced, or to make use of a phrase here, 'neither law nor Gospel can pass the rapids of the Mississippi.' The country is one immense prairie from the Rock River on the south to the Ouiskonsin (Wisconsin) on the north, and from the Mississippi on the west to Lake Michigan on the east. It is hilly here and abounding in lead ore of that species called by mineralogists 'galena,' whence is derived the name of our town.

"The lead mines of the upper Mississippi are under the control of the Secretary of War. Lieutenant Thomas is superintendent. He resides at St.

Louis and a sub-agent resides here. Any person wishing to dig, gets a permit of the agent to do so by signing certain regulations, the principal one of which is that he will sell his mineral to none but a regularly licensed smelter. He has all the mineral he can raise and sells it at \$17.50 per thousand pounds, delivered at the furnaces. Any person who gets this permit stakes off two hundred yards. This is his lot so long as he works on it, and no one else can interfere with his discoveries. Any person who will give bond to the Government for \$5,000, can have half a mile square on condition he employs twenty laborers and pays the Government ten per cent of lead made from mineral raised on his survey, or sells his mineral to a public smelter. The public smelters give bond for \$20,000 to pay the Government one-tenth of all lead manufactured. They buy mineral of any person who has a permit to dig, manufacture it into lead, pay the government one-tenth monthly and are the great men of the place. The mineral, lead, and cash all go through their hands. The privilege of working these mines was first given to Colonel Johnson of Kentucky five years ago. He did but little and sunk money.

"Not much lead was made here until last year. There were then four log buildings in Galena (1826). Now there are one hundred and fifteen houses and stores in the place. It is the place of deposit for lead, and provisions, etc., for all the mining country. There is no spot in America, of the same size, where there is one-fourth of the capital, or where there is so much business done. There was manufactured here in the year ending September last, 5,000,000 pounds of lead.

"The population consists mainly of Americans, Irish and French (that is in the diggings). There are but comparatively few families and few ladies. Hence every lady, unmarried, who lands on these shores, is immediately married. Little girls fourteen and even thirteen years old are often married here. Three young ladies who came fellow passengers with me on the steamboat from St. Louis in June and the only ones on board, are all married months ago.

"Dubuque's mines, on the opposite side of the Mississippi, are worked by the Fox Indians. They, however, merely skim the surface. The windlass and the bucket are not known among them. Dubuque's mine is a delightful spot, particularly the Fox village on the banks of the Mississippi. But most of all places in the United States which I have seen, Rock Island, at the lower rapids of the Mississippi, is by far the most beautiful. Fort Armstrong is on the island.

"At the mouth of the Fever River is a trading post of the American Fur Company. Their trading houses are scattered up and down the Mississippi, the Des Moines, the St. Peters, etc. Their capital is so large and they give the Indians such extensive credits that no private establishment can compete with them.

"An Indian debt is outlawed by their own customs within one year. The Fur Company credits each Indian hunter a certain amount—from one to five hundred dollars, according to his industry and skill in hunting and trapping. If, when they return in the spring, they have not furs and peltry enough to pay the debt, the trader loses it. But on the goods sold to the Indians, there

is a profit of two or three hundred per cent made, and a profit on the furs received in payment.

"Fever River was closed with ice on the twenty-first of November and, of course, navigation is ended, and I have not sent my letter. I now have an opportunity to forward it by private conveyance to Vandalia. We are now shut out from all intercourse with the world until the river opens again in the spring. We have no mail as yet but we shall have a mail once in two weeks, to commence the first of January next."

Galena, indeed, was a busy place. Steamboats now were running on regular schedule between St. Louis and Galena, except in the winter, when ice in the upper Mississippi halted navigation. Farmers and merchants as well as miners were rushing to the vicinity as the news of Galena's prosperity was buzzed about the Republic. In the fall of 1827 the greater part of the colony from Lord Selkirk's settlement on Red River (now Winnipeg) packed up bag and baggage and came to Galena, many of them traveling overland by ox team. These were largely farmers who began to till the hills into which miners were then burrowing; thus a farmer following his plow would often hear the rumble of blasts deep in the earth beneath his furrow. As rapidly as newcomers arrived they set about building homes, and the increasing number of traders and merchants worked swift changes in the business district. By 1828 the city had 42 stores and warehouses, and 46 new houses in business buildings were built in that year. Buildings were assuming a more permanent aspect and native limestone was being used for many of them. In this year the John Dowling house, at the junction of Diagonal and Main Streets, was built. The population was nearly 800.

This same year the settlement experienced its first serious flood. Spring rains swelled the Galena River until a large section of the business district was inundated. There had been floods before, but this one broke local records. In the backwaters where the DeSoto Hotel now stands, a catfish weighing 106 pounds was caught. Steamboats passed down Main Street, the grade of which was lower than at present. By this time the greater part of the lead district was dotted with mining camps or "diggings," some of them fifty miles or more north of Galena, but all of them depending on Galena for supplies.

A map of the region for 1829, preserved by the Wisconsin Historical Society, shows more than fifty diggings ranging from Galena to the Wisconsin River. Among these were the Wisconsin settlements of Platteville, Shullsburg, New Diggings, Mineral Point and Cassville. Practically all these little communities were established by men who had prospected the neighborhood with Galena as their base.

Prairie and timberland stretched endlessly in all directions devoid of any human habitation, save where remained, at occasional strategic points on river or lake, some forts built by the French but now garrisoned by the United States.

Twenty-five miles northeast of Galena, near the present site of Wiota, Wisconsin, was Hamilton's Diggings, where a son of the first Secretary of

the Treasury prospected. Colonel William S. Hamilton came to this region in the early twenties and served in the Illinois legislature in 1825-6. Hearsay has it that he came to Illinois looking for Aaron Burr, who had killed his father in a duel. He is said to have found Burr in St. Louis and challenged him, but Burr, then an old man, declined.

Although Colonel Hamilton was a well-educated and a cultured person, he lived a rough life in his pioneer camp, occupying a log hut with a dirt floor and wearing clothes slightly less reputable than those of his miners. He visited Galena frequently. In 1838-9, his mother, a daughter of the Revolutionary general, Schuyler, spent a year in Galena near her son. She was a guest of Captain H. H. Gear during this visit. Colonel Hamilton remained in the lead country until 1849, when he joined the gold rush to California. He died there in 1851.

Colonel Henry Gratiot, United States Indian Agent who settled a land dispute between settlers and Winnebago Indians at a peace meeting at Council Hill in 1827, was one of the founders of the little Wisconsin settlement which bears his name today. Colonel Gratiot and his brother, John P. B. Gratiot, Creole Frenchmen from St. Louis, founded "Gratiot's Grove" and at one time operated nine smelters there.

Overland travel was so difficult that almost all shipments to Galena were by water. Lead from every digging was brought to Galena by ox-cart and shipped down river to St. Louis or New Orleans by barge. In 1829 the first overland shipment was sent to Chicago by ox-cart, a journey of eleven days by a prairie trail, over many streams. Merchants purchased goods in New York to be sent down the Atlantic coast and through the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans and then up the river to the mines. The *Galena Advertiser and Upper Mississippi Herald*, established in 1829, carried the advertising of several packet lines operating between Galena and southern ports.

Late in 1829 Galena suffered its first set-back. Lead production was slackened to create a scarcity leading to higher prices. Not until after the close of the Black Hawk war in 1832 did the city begin to revive. In 1829 Aratus Kent, a young Presbyterian minister, came from New England to organize the First Presbyterian Church. He was instrumental in bringing Amasa B. Campbell to Galena, in 1832, to open a school. In the same year Colonel J. M. Strode organized the Jo Daviess Third Brigade, First Division, Illinois Militia, which was to see action in the Black Hawk campaign. In 1829 weekly mail service was established from Vandalia, and a smallpox case alarmed the town when it was discovered on a boat at the dock. Doctors Muir and Newhall urged a general vaccination and many followed that advice.

On February 1, 1830, the first fire-fighting corps was organized at a meeting in the home of Moses Swan, near what is now the DeSoto Hotel. Most of Galena's homes and buildings of that time were frame, and heated by open hearths. In many stores and warehouses were quantities of blasting powder; several fires had threatened the city. As the members were leaving the Swan home they saw the roof of Major F. B. Farnsworth's "grocery," just across the street, ablaze. With great zeal they scaled the building and extinguished

the fire amid much applause. But though the store was saved, its liquors were immediately ravaged by both firemen and spectators.

The Galena volunteer fire department became a smoothly functioning and well-equipped organization. Eventually five fire stations were built and large cisterns built under the streets for use of volunteers with hand pumps. Six of these cisterns were located on Main Street. One of them still remains near the intersection of Main and Green.

Galena's mines attracted men from all corners of the earth. In 1830 an influx of Cornish miners began which lasted until the gold rush of 1849.

The first Cornishmen found lead mining in a decline, for several reasons. "Overproduction" in 1828-9 had reduced lead prices. Higher wages were being offered elsewhere. But the prime cause was fear of Indians, who were increasingly restless. The Winnebago uprising of 1827, when that tribe terrorized southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, had not been forgotten. In two days in that year 3,000 men, women, and children fled farms and mines for refuge in Galena.

The Black Hawk War, although more heat lightning than actual storm, did bring the Indian question to a head. With the defeat of Black Hawk at Bad Axe, it was not long before the Winnebagoes ceded their lands and moved across the Mississippi with the remnants of the Sauk and Fox. With their passing came a permanent peace.

Along the Rock River, the Apple River, the Wisconsin and the Mississippi, lie the battlefields of the Black Hawk War. Black Hawk, Sauk chief, held a well-justified hostility and suspicion toward whites. He never forgave four chiefs who signed a treaty, while drunk in St. Louis in 1804, ceding all land east of the Mississippi. Although by this pact the government granted the Indians use of the lands of the Sauk village on the Rock River, Black Hawk felt that the whites would violate it. He was correct, and so during the War of 1812 he supported the British, who promised him to return his lands.

When the whites began using whiskey in trade for Sauk land, Black Hawk let it be known that he would not tolerate such methods and would not recognize such exchanges. In 1831 the whites became insistent that the Indians be moved across the Mississippi. Although Black Hawk made a great show of strength in protest, he yielded without contest and so no lives were lost. He and his followers had been invited to spend that summer at the Winnebago Prophet's Town, 35 miles up the Rock River, to grow corn and beans. On the arrival of Black Hawk and his warriors, they found themselves unwanted. The Winnebagoes refused the Sauks permission to stay, fearing the hostility of their white neighbors. So Black Hawk moved on to the mouth of the Kishwaukee River. Shortly after occurred the battle of Stillman Run, an affair provoked by the killing of several Sauks bearing flags of truce. For three months Black Hawk was pursued through Wisconsin, where he sought safety for his women and children, their flight culminating in defeat at Bad Axe.

It was expected that Black Hawk's early victory over Major Stillman and his volunteers would rally other tribes to him and launch a long-feared Indian

war. When Colonel Strode, at Galena, learned of Stillman's rout, he immediately ordered all able-bodied men to join in building a stockade. Logs, twelve to fourteen feet long, were set up, with suitable portholes, around an area bounded by Main, Franklin, Bench and Hill Streets. Within this enclosure stood Major Campbell's stone house and the log houses of Doctor Hancock and Amos Farrar, the latter arranged to give shelter to the women and children. Atop the hill, at Elk and Prospect, a block house became a watch tower.

Doctor Newhall established a hospital, as Galena was expected to be the base of military operations. Although Galena was spared need for its stockade, the hospital proved invaluable in 1832 in fighting an epidemic of Asiatic cholera. The malignancy of the disease is revealed in the experience of Winfield Scott's expedition, ordered to Illinois to help suppress the Indians. General Scott sailed from Buffalo with 950 men, and when he arrived in Chicago cholera had decimated his command to 400. Scott arrived at Bad Axe the day after Black Hawk was routed for the last time.

The anxiety of the times is shown by an incident which occurred shortly after completion of the stockade. Someone on watch in the block house thought, mistakenly, that he saw Indians; a cannon was fired in warning, and 700 whites ran so rapidly for the stockade that, even had the alarm been warranted, there probably would not have been one caught alone.

Many men later to gain national renown fought in the Black Hawk War, among them Zachary Taylor, Robert Anderson, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Albert Sidney Johnston, Duncan, Ford, Carlin, Wood, and Ewing, the latter five of whom were to become governors of Illinois.



## Lead and Grain

WITH Black Hawk in irons and his tribesmen gone, Galena began to boom again. Lead production, the barometer of its times, had fallen under 5,000,000 pounds for 1832, a figure substantially below the country's need. Mines reopened, new lodes were struck, and another influx of settlers began.

A lead pipe and sheet metal factory was established in 1834, and in the same year Bartlett and Loring of St. Louis began the *Galena Gazette*; three years ago the paper's centennial edition was published. It is the oldest newspaper in the state possessing a complete file. For decades it was one of the most widely read sheets in America, drawing subscriptions from all over the world.

By 1835 a forceful, thrifty minority began taking local power from the adventurers and drifters and careless ones; it established a branch of the State Bank of Illinois. That they managed their money so long without a bank is a tribute to Galena's settlers. Thievery was so infrequent that merchants did not trouble to lock their stores.

The peso, the sovereign and the franc were common in the city's currency. Miners, particularly during the depression of the early 1840's, insisted on payment in gold. The casual regard of these men for the sovereign and the five-franc piece is revealed in that the former, worth \$4.84, was accepted in trade at \$5, and the latter, worth 94 cents, paid \$1. The New Orleans picayune was worth six and a quarter cents. Not until after the Civil War did copper and nickel coins become common.

The city extended its limits from Main and Green Streets to Branch and Dodge in 1835. It was becoming a trade center. Large granaries were built along its waterfront; aided by the slope of the land, grain could be unloaded from wagons on Bench Street into the third floor of a granary and loaded at the same time from the Main Street level on the other side into waiting boats. Old-timers in Galena remember ox teams standing for blocks down Bench Street, awaiting their turn to unload.

Galena became self-governing through federal authorization of an election to choose a governing body of its own; local government had been in the hands of the surveyor-general. Samuel Leach, John Turney and Daniel Wann, later port collector, were elected president and trustees, to serve without pay. It was not until a constable was appointed in 1837 that any city office carried a salary; that office then received \$150 a year.

The city's cultural life was stimulated by formation of a "young men's society for moral and intellectual development," later the Galena Lyceum Association. During these years the young army officers at Fort Crawford (Prairie du Chien) and Fort Armstrong (Rock Island) attended many functions in town.

Up to 1836 transportation was predominantly by water. During that year Frink, of the firm of Frink & Walker, sent the first stage coach from Chicago to Galena. Foreign visitors marveled from the coach windows at acres of prairie grass endless as a sea dotted with trees like islands and bearing wave after wave of wild flowers constantly before the wind. The State ordered a survey of a wagon route between the two cities. Illinois 5 (U.S. 20) from Freeport to Rockford follows the old stage road. The 200-mile run was made in one day, over uncertain roads and bridgeless streams, with fresh horses every twelve miles; wayside inns served meals of bread, bacon, and coffee. Brandon's tavern, built in 1840 over the stump of the "Treaty Oak" at Council Hill, is standing still. It was not until 1840, when the mail stages began, that regular schedules could be maintained; the traveler still carried his own blanket, and could expect no more than a sack of hay for a bed. Fare was \$13.

The city was unaffected by the panic of 1837, a circumstance which brought many newcomers to the region. In 1838 the auditorium of the stone store which Nicholas Dowling had built on Main Street was rented for a courthouse. Mines grew scarcer; lawsuits over lodes brought many lawyers, some of great ability, to Galena. Among those to settle in the city were Thomas Ford, later governor, the eloquent Benjamin Mills, Jesse B. Thomas, who became a state supreme court judge, and William Smith. After holding office for a year, the first constable was ordered to find a jail, and he acquired the lower story of a house on Main and Diagonal.

A growing civic consciousness resulted in organization of a chamber of commerce with Daniel Wann as president and Major Thomas Melville as secretary. Meetings were held to consider introduction of a common school system. A draft for a city charter was sent to Senator G. W. Harrison at Vandalia for enactment by the State legislature. The Galena Library Association, formed in 1835, had 835 volumes. City trustees, realizing that the river was silting in, sought means of stopping the process. In 1839 dredging was begun, but this achieved only temporary improvement.

Amusements along the Middle Border were few. A circus came to Galena in September 1838, and was taxed \$20 for a license. The next month the McKenzie-Jefferson players began an engagement which lasted out the year. The *Galena Advertiser* announced that tickets for *Wives as They Were and Maids as They Are*, could be bought for \$1 at the Eagle saloon and the Galena Hotel. In this comedy, in a minor role, Joseph Jefferson, then nine years old, appeared; he was later to immortalize *Rip Van Winkle*.

Rougher pastimes, such as wolf fights and cock fights, were held in the "Lighthouses"—groceries and saloons. Bowling, whist, seven-up, and variations of poker were popular. The Galena Temperance Society was formed in 1838.

When Illinois became a State in 1818 its northern line had been drawn at 42 degrees 30 minutes, and all land north of the Illinois River designated as Pike County. In 1827 the country between the Mississippi and Rock Rivers

was named Jo Daviess County; this included all or portions of eight of the present counties within those limits. The first county to be cut out was Rock Island, formed in 1831; Ogle, Whiteside, Winnebago, and Stephenson were formed in 1836, the latter forming Jo Daviess' eastern border. Lee and Carroll, organized in 1839, completed the definition of Jo Daviess' boundaries.

Black Hawk's defeat emboldened the lead district. People began farming in greater numbers, and between \$300,000 and \$400,000 was eventually spent to "prove up" rights to land. Henceforward agriculture was to overshadow both mining and manufacturing. In 1840 there were 876 farmers to every 617 miners in the county.

Farming first proved highly productive, with a ready market in Galena. It was not until the unglaciated soil began washing away down the hills that farming became an increasingly difficult pursuit.

Illinois might have seceded from the Union, when the Confederacy was established, had Congress not pigeonholed a petition of northern counties to withdraw from Illinois and join Wisconsin territory, in a boundary dispute of the 1840's. The dispute rose out of the slavery problem, and had its basis in a petition of 1818. In that year Nathaniel Pope had petitioned Congress that Illinois be made a State, the petition following an ordinance of 1787 which set the northern boundary of Illinois at the southernmost tip of Lake Michigan, thus precluding possibilities of Illinois having a lake port. Realizing that Illinois' contact with the East was via the Great Lakes, Pope, on his own initiative, changed the description to 42 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, thereby establishing the present boundary. Congress approved this altered measure and thus Galena, as well as Fort Dearborn, later Chicago, remained in Illinois. Years later the northern counties invoked this petition as a threat to withdraw from the State because of domination of the legislature by down-state factions; these factions were not only southern in sympathy, but brought fears of bankruptcy and increased taxation to the northern counties. The latter, seeing themselves outvoted, sought escape by holding conventions in Galena, Rockford, Freeport, and Belvidere, with resultant elections almost unanimous in approving withdrawal. Galena especially felt a bond with southwestern Wisconsin because of common mining interests. But in 1848 Congress shelved the last petition.

The forties was perhaps Galena's most colorful decade. The new market created by the rising farm population, the steady growth of the city itself, the continued upturn in lead production, all made for free spending. The four-storied buildings along Main were crammed with merchandise to be distributed throughout the Northwest. Barge men raced for the limited dock space, sometimes settling a dead heat by a knock-down and drag-out brawl on the wharf in which everything from knee-lifting to eye-gouging went.

Blood and whiskey flowed freely along the waterfront and in the mining camps. Welsh miners varied the art of personal conflict by introducing the stone duel; a type of warfare as formal as fencing and twice as deadly. Par-

ticipants assumed positions behind prearranged stone-piles and proceeded to bombard each other, always formally, into death or unconsciousness.

The Paul Pry Coffee Shop thus tempted epicures of the era in the *Daily Advertiser*:

"Mr. Wm. Baldwin respectfully informs the citizens of Galena and the mining country generally that he has reopened his coffee house.

"Between you and I, he has got some of the best liquors in Galena and will always keep on hand beef steaks, hot coffee, venison steak, tripe, prairie chicken, pigs feet and sausages which will be served up in the neatest stile and in ten minutes notice."

The roaring life of the mines and the waterfront was but one aspect of the city's life. On "the hill" an aristocracy of Southern and Eastern origins was developing. Here lived such men as Elihu B. Washburne, who came to the city in 1840 from Livermore, Maine, a Harvard graduate who began practising law in the city. In time he became Secretary of State and Minister to France. A brother, Cadwallader, came to Galena in 1841 and later founded the milling firm of Washburne & Crosby in Minneapolis; in time he became Governor of Wisconsin. W. R. Marshall also came to Galena in 1841, later to open the first store in St. Anthony (Minneapolis), and during the Civil War to become a brigadier general; he became Governor of Minnesota. Many such men spent their young manhood in Galena in the forties.

In 1841 Galena accepted a charter of incorporation granted by the State legislature. An aldermanic government, with Charles H. Hempstead as mayor, supplanted the trustee system. Galena was a city—officially. A census revealed that it had 650 houses and 2,225 people. By 1850 the population was 6,000, and in 1858 it was 14,000; two years later it had fallen to 10,000. In these early censuses it is probable that many of the communities comprising "Greater Galena" were included.

The peak of lead production for the region was reached in 1845, when 54,500,000 of the 65,000,000 pounds for the entire country were produced here. Whereas England in 1833 had exported 10,000,000 pounds of lead to America, eight years later the situation was reversed, and by 1845 the United States led the world in such production. Much American lead went to China.

Toll bridges were built in 1841, one at Bouthillier Street and another at Franklin, but were so frail that both were swept away in flood the following spring. The river at that time was 340 feet wide and from three to four feet deeper than the main channel of the Mississippi; but in spite of this the city had a dredging bill on its hands by 1856. Ferry service had no competition until 1847, when new toll draw-bridges were built by private capital at Meeker and Spring Streets. Shortly after, the city bought these and made them public.

Among the important buildings completed in the forties were the Market House, 1845, the German Methodist church, 1846, the Grace Episcopal church, begun in 1847, and St. Mary's, 1848.

Southerners brought slaves to Galena. A bill of sale for Oct. 6, 1830, records the sale of a mulatto female, age nineteen and her eighteen-months-old

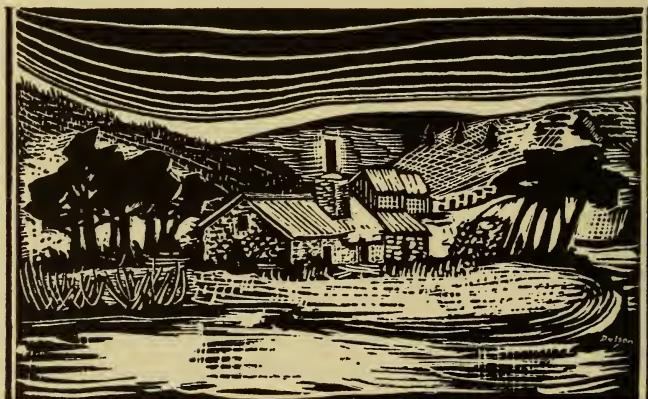
son, for \$330. A natural concomitant of the traffic was runaways; in 1835 Galena was offering \$200 rewards for such slaves.

The State constitution, adopted in 1848, stated, "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the state . . ." The ordinance of 1787 also barred slavery, but it was ignored and local officials winked at its actual existence. Not until 1848 did slavery really cease.

There were ex-slaves who endeared themselves to the townspeople. Barney Norris, who was brought to Galena by Captain Thomas C. Legate in 1834, and was footman to John Quincy Adams from 1826 to 1828, was in great demand at weddings and banquets. Norris also came to know where bass and pike were biting best, so that dignitaries sought him out when there was fishing. Old-time Galenians tell too of Swanzy Adams and his water-wagon. Swanzy never missed a Fourth of July parade, invariably bringing up the rear with the wagon. Jim Lee, a handy-man, dressed in his best every Christmas, put rings on his fingers and called upon all for whom he had worked during the year, saying that he had set aside the day to receive gifts.

With the discovery of gold in 1848 in California, fortune-hunters were diverted from the Mississippi valley. Many miners in the Galena area left their diggings to join the rush to San Francisco and Sacramento. This exodus from the lead fields had only a temporary effect on Galena, for many, disappointed, returned to mine lead, and new settlers replaced many who had left. As a matter of fact, Galena enjoyed a small boom in equipping and supplying wagon trains moving toward the coast.

The spring of 1850 saw thousands of prairie schooners moving west, and Mississippi ferries were always full. Wagon-trains were sometimes forced to wait a week for their turn to cross the river.



## The Fermenting Fifties

THROUGH the fifties the lead country was extremely California-conscious. Many Galenians had settled there and were writing home from the gold fields. Their letters were published in the local paper. Every scrap of news from the coast was reprinted by the *Daily Gazette*. Second generation Galenians were being dazzled by much the same hopes which but a few years before had brought their fathers to northern Illinois. Almost overnight, it seemed, the frontier had flung itself two thousand miles farther west. Galena no longer was an outpost of the Northwest.

There was little building done in 1850 and 1851 because of the gold rush, hence an acute housing shortage developed in 1852. Homes and hotels began rising again as the city prepared for a new railroad being built from Chicago. A stock company was formed to build a creditable hotel; by 1854 it was completed, five stories and with over 200 rooms. The suggestion that it be called the Marquette House was canceled out of fear that that name would be corrupted to Market House; hence it was called the De Soto.

Newspapers in 1853 carried daily accounts of the efforts of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad to reach Galena before the Illinois Central reached Cairo. Since the thirties Galena had employed every influence to bring a railroad through the city. Subscriptions for the Galena Railroad and Transportation Company in 1838 had failed to bring a railroad; there was no foreseeing now that the road was to hasten Galena's decline. Traffic on the river had always been conducted under obstacles; the freezing of the river in the winter restricted movement of freight to nine months a year. Up till the opening of the Illinois-Michigan Canal in 1848, contact with the east was via New Orleans. The coming of the railroads diverted Galena's domination of river traffic to every town through which the road passed.



For many years there had been a growing local aversion to the name "Fevre River." "Fevre," Anglicized to "fever," had implications which Galenians felt made timorous easterners chary of the city.

Uncertainty surrounds the name's origin. French explorers had known it as "Riviere de la Mine," according to maps reproduced by Marcel in the archives of the Marine in Paris. Indians had known the stream as "Moschuck Maucaubie," the "big smallpox river," because tribesmen had succumbed to smallpox in the neighborhood. Another story persists that it was also called "Fielle," meaning "gall," the name of an Indian chief. Again it was referred to as the "Feve River," or bean river, for the wild beans growing along its banks.

The question of the derivations of "Fevre" or "Fever," as the stream was generally known in the early days of settlement, prompted many heated arguments and much newspaper comment. A miner, urging a change of name in the *Daily Advertiser* in 1853, wrote: "Permit me to call attention to the subject of the changing of the name of the Fevre river to some other that will not be a bugbear to strangers and emigrants coming to the N. W., something that will not frighten the people so that they are not able to pass an unbiased judgment on Galena when they get there, by hearing that it stands on the banks of the stream called Fevre river.

"... But,' says one, 'why change the name? It is not Fever, but Fevre river; it is French and means Bean river.' No such thing! There is such a word as Fevre in the French language; it is merely a technical term pertaining to a particular business, and means, a fireman working salt works—'Bean' in French is spelled feve and is pronounced fave. So Frenchify it as much as you please, you cannot make sense of it. Even putting what our citizens appear to think is the name of the river into proper French, which would be, *Le Riviere des Feves* (*The River of Beans*), does it not speak badly for the tastes of our citizens? Think, for instance, of a future Burns, a Scott, a Tom Moore or a Bryant, describing, in poetic strains, the beauties of the River of Beans! Decidedly poetical, is it not?

"There is a certainty of having communication with the eastern states by railroad and the emigrant about to start west will be told that he can have direct communication and passage to every point on the Mississippi from Galena as he can by going on to the Mississippi itself.

"But where is Galena? Is it not on the Mississippi?" asks the emigrant.

"No. It is on the Fevre river," is the reply.

"Fever river? Oh, no! I don't want to go there. I should be afraid to stop there a single day with my family', and immediately his imagination peoples Galena with long, lean, lantern-jawed, bilious-looking, fever-and-ague-shaken beings, whilst he has visions of miasma, bad air, fevers, anti-bilious

pills, long doctor's bills, and a whole army of doctors, who being the majority of living citizens, have named the town after their great predecessor, Galen, adding an 'a' for propriety's sake.

"Surely the names by which we are bounded, Snake Hollow on the north, Catfish and Death's Head on the west, on the south and east by Small Pox, should be enough for the most fastidious of horror mongers. It may be contested that these are only imaginary objections. I admit it, but it is well known that prejudices formed on imaginary grounds are the most difficult to combat, because they are not tangible, there is nothing to lay hold of, and then why give rise to imaginary objections, when the cause could be eradicated with but little trouble? I propose to call it Deep River. It is a name possessing more of the elements of adoption, being smooth and affluent, more concise, easily spoken, and also a characteristic of the river, which from the city to its mouth is little else than a canal deep and narrow."

Because of the commonness of such protests, the State legislature of 1854 finally changed the name of the stream to "Galena River."

The year 1853 marked an appreciable increase in Galena's population. The census of 1850 listed the population of the city proper as 6,004, and in 1853 it had grown to 8,000. The suburban population was nearly as much again. Total business for the year was \$6,283,671.50.

The tides of movers bound west in 1854 are recalled by reports of "600 to 700 arrivals daily" with all boats and trains having their "full squeeze of passengers." Many came without money, adventurers hoping to attach themselves to those more fortunate. A relief association was organized to abolish the "system of street begging which is a system of monopoly, the few and the reckless winning the prizes." In the hope of placing the more ambitious drifters, an employment bureau, called the Galena Intelligence Office, was opened.

In June of that year five excursion boats visited Galena at one time, and 1,000 people from the East and South swarmed over the city and delighted in its picturesqueness. Among these editors, professors, governors, railroad presidents, and ministers to foreign countries were Charles A. Dana of the *New York Tribune*; Millard Fillmore, and the historian, Bancroft.

Through the fifties successive tides of immigration often altered the aspect of a town over night. A Galenian stated that his city had "the most labyrinthian streets, the handsomest women, ugliest men, deepest mineral holes and all in all a greater amount of cheek."

The levee was a busy place, and at times as many as seven boats docked within an hour, emptying porters, draymen, runners, ticket agents, ice dealers, butchers, bakers, shoppers, and consignees down the docks into Main Street.

After 1855 the steamboat's importance on the upper Mississippi declined as railroads slowly reversed the flow of trade. Previously, because trade had gone downstream, St. Louis, New Orleans, and even New York and Philadelphia were better known to the business men of Galena than was Chicago. Even with modern advertising volume, it would be highly unusual for contemporary midwestern newspapers to carry whole sections of advertisers' displays from New York and other east coast cities, as did the Galena press of the 1850's. Galena was the emporium of the Northwest. Its forty warehouses and wholesale establishments were markets well worth cultivating, but war clouds were gathering and fear of a blockade before New Orleans hastened the passing of the steamboat. The steamboat as a carrier of freight still served to keep down freight rates, and so fought the railroads for a while. In 1857 a new customs house was built to carry on official business and register all upper Mississippi River traffic.

Galena of the late fifties moved through a curious cycle. The advent of the railroad shattered her trade. Dubuque, dormant for a quarter century, began to flourish as the western terminus of the Illinois Central. Neighboring towns too diverted much of the territorial trade. Since 1845 lead production had been in a sharp decline, but the boom of Galena as a trading center had more than counterbalanced that loss. The growth of manufacturing pulled population to a peak of 14,000 in 1858. But even industrial expansion failed to sustain the city, and it came out of the depression of 1857 no longer the metropolis of northwestern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, but only the chief city of Jo Daviess County.

Galena knew the meaning of brother against brother as secessionist talk spread. Enmities began which were never to heal; the southern origin of many Galenians intensified feeling. Others were proud that the city was able to give Grant to the Nation.

The *Galena Daily Advertiser* announced July 23, 1856, that the "Hon. A. Lincoln, Republican candidate for Elector, will address the citizens of Galena and Jo Daviess County on political questions of the day, from the balcony of the DeSoto House this evening." Four years later Galena helped put the speaker of that evening into the White House. Stephen A. Douglas spoke in Galena the same year.

The following year the United States Marine Hospital was begun, to be completed in 1858 at a cost of \$30,000. Doctor Horatio Newhall was placed in charge of the institution, designed as a refuge for rivermen of the upper Mississippi. Although, as previously suggested, river trade was falling off from Galena, yet the city benefited by the extension of daily boat service to St. Louis, St. Paul, and intermediate points.

The railroads had not yet forced the stage lines out of business. In 1857 fifteen stage lines radiated from the city. St. Matthew's Evangelical Church

was erected the same year. The lead output for the year amounted to 34,183,-250 pounds, indicative that lead was still vital to Galena's trade.

Galena of 1858 supported two daily newspapers. Its schools housed 1,500. In addition to the dozen or more mills built on streams near the city, there were brick and lime kilns, seven breweries, three soap and candle factories, three leather finishing houses, wagon shops, pottery plants, lumber yards, two grist mills, two iron foundries, two plow factories, two furniture factories and two carriage factories. Two lead furnaces smelted 15,000 pounds daily.

Lead mining became costlier as the shallowest diggings were worked out. By the fifties mining entailed not only hard manual labor, but money to finance expensive machinery for depth mining. Previously, ambition, a strong body, a short handled pick, a gad and a shovel were the chief requisites. Depth mining became complicated by the presence of zinc ore, a nuisance to miners who knew little about separating processes. In spite of these difficulties, new mines were begun. Once a prospector had discovered a deposit of mineral by sinking a test hole into the earth, a shaft was dug down to the ore. These shafts were usually four by six feet across and from ten to twenty feet deep, according to the location of the vein. Ordinarily the shafts were perpendicular, but, when practicable, they were constructed on an incline. The walls were cribbed with heavy timbers. Galena dolomite, in which the ore is found, usually was encountered at the twenty-foot level, and tunnels were sent out from the bottom of the shaft, sometimes for a distance of several hundred feet, following the veins. These tunnels were from ten to fifteen feet in height and varied in width from five to forty feet according to the ore's distribution.

When water was encountered a pump driven by horse power was employed. Tallow candles were used to light the chambers; the candlestick was a lump of soft fire clay wrapped about the base of the candle. The clay would adhere to any wall surface and hold the candle in any position. Pushcarts operating on wooden rails transported the mineral from distant parts of the mine to the shaft, where it was placed in tubs and hauled to the surface by a windlass. When the ore arrived at a smelter it was crushed with hammers and then washed in running water to free it from dirt. It was then ready for the furnace.

There were at one time 23 smelters operating in Jo Daviess County, the best known of which was for many years that of Samuel Hughlett & Son, located on a small stream a half mile from the end of Gratiot Street. This smelter, in operation in 1839, was equipped with the crude log furnace of that period. Successive improvements in smelting processes in time converted the Hughlett plant into a blast furnace smelter. Only ruins remain of this old plant, abandoned when the industry declined.

In 1857, when Jo Daviess County was estimated to have a population of 26,000, only 3,000 were employed in mining. Wages ranged from \$1 to \$1.50 per day. Big money had begun to pass from the miners, who were unable to finance depth mining, into the hands of the smelters, who took control of the industry. From that time forward Galena ceased to be a Mecca for fortune hunters.

But settlers kept coming on.



## A Middle-Aged Clerk in a Faded Army Coat

IN April of 1860 the *Itasca*, carrying freight and passengers up the Mississippi from St. Louis, docked at the Galena wharf. Among those who crowded ashore was a bearded fellow in a blue cape overcoat carrying a chair in each hand. A woman and four young children followed him down the dock to Main Street without attracting the attention of other than a few levee loungers. Ulysses S. Grant was 38 that April. Six years later he was to be welcomed at the same wharf with an enthusiasm approaching mob frenzy.

Born at Point Pleasant, Ohio, April 27, 1822, he was graduated from West Point when 18, served through the Mexican War and subsequently failed in several civilian pursuits before coming to Galena: farming, auctioneering, account collecting.

Jesse R. Grant, prosperous St. Louis tanner, was Ulysses' father; the sons associated with the elder Grant in his Covington, Kentucky, tannery and his stores in St. Louis and Galena were Jesse, Simpson, and Orville, all younger than Ulysses. It is said that the father and the younger sons offered Ulysses a place in the Galena firm only with misgivings, and largely out of pity. Fifteen years in the army had maladjusted him, they felt, for civilian life; and his unsuccessful efforts to find a living in the four years of his retirement seemed to substantiate their doubts.

The circumstances which gave two of the Grant boys the maternal name, Simpson, has interest. Ulysses was christened Hiram Ulysses, but the congressman who arranged his West Point appointment was unfamiliar with the family roster and recorded it as Ulysses Simpson Grant. After brief efforts to rectify the error among comrades, Grant resigned himself to the name.

Grant, who possessed decision, judgment, and courage, was too soft-hearted to press a debtor and too honest to misrepresent merchandise. But since his family had to be provided for, it was finally decided to give him work in the Galena store at \$600 a year.

Grant rented a modest brick house at 121 High Street and took up his duties with his brothers Jesse and Simpson. Because of his retiring disposition he attracted little attention, but made some friends among neighbors and customers. Although not well known in Galena at this time, the few who did come to know him intimately respected him. Among these intimates were several destined to become Civil War generals: John Corson Smith, a carpenter-contractor; William R. Rowley, circuit clerk of the county; Jasper A. Maltby, a gunsmith; and John A. Rawlins, a lawyer.

Grant had been in Galena just a year when Fort Sumter was fired upon. Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers had a mixed welcome in Galena. It had been only a few years since the diversion of the river traffic by the railroad had slackened the city's ties with the South and tightened those with the North and East; those years had not been enough to overshadow, deeply, the bonds of blood and sentiment which so many Galena families of South-Central origin now felt.

Mayor Robert Brand, loyal to Lincoln yet reluctant to take up arms, presided at a mass meeting in the courthouse immediately after Fort Sumter had fallen, at which formation of volunteer companies was proposed. Brand went on record as favoring "an honorable compromise" which would again unite the nation. This evoked a storm of protest which threatened to disrupt the meeting; but order was restored and a resolution adopted to form two companies immediately.

The following evening, April 18, another meeting was held to enlist volunteers. Grant was introduced as a West Point graduate and a veteran of the Mexican War. He was asked to preside and to take charge of the recruiting, to organize a company and to become its commander. He replied that he could not command a company because, as an army officer, his services were already at the disposal of the Government. He offered, however, to act as chairman, and to train volunteers until such time as he should be called into service.

A protest was voiced against Grant as chairman on the ground that he was from St. Louis, a city of known secessionist sympathies. It was pointed out too that his wife, the former Julia Dent and daughter of Frederick Dent, owner of Galena's first store, was known to have owned two slaves. This protest was spiked by Congressman Elihu B. Washburne, and the following week Grant began training recruits, using the Washburne lawn as parade ground.

It was a memorable day for Galena when this company of 100, captained by Augustus L. Chetlain, son of an early Galena family, left for Springfield to be mustered into service. Dressed in home-tailored blue frock coats and dark gray pants with blue cords, the company was escorted to the depot by the Galena volunteer fire companies, the German Benevolent Society and a large group of citizens. A flag was presented by E. A. Small and the company boarded the train amid cheers and tears.

Grant accompanied the company to Springfield, but took no part in the depot ceremonies. He made his way there alone with his battered luggage. Congressman Washburne, after whom the Washburne Lead Mine Regiment was named, also accompanied the first unit to Springfield, and there introduced Grant to Governor Yates.

Grant had offered himself to the War Department, but receiving no reply, and being unable to attach himself to McClellan at Cincinnati after several attempts, he accepted the Adjutant Generalship of Illinois from Governor

Yates. After some weeks assisting organization of State troops in the capital, he was commissioned Colonel of the Twenty-first Regiment of Infantry. Thus began the career which was shortly to place him in command of all the Union forces.





## Armed Years

GALENA was in a fever of excitement through the spring and summer of 1861. Scarcely had the first company departed before another was formed, and men eager to trade pick and gad for rifle and bayonet came from all corners of the County to volunteer in Galena. Mines, mills, and furnaces were abandoned; Galena became a hive of wartime activity with all pursuits subordinated to that of clothing and equipping the new companies. Sailors worked day and night fashioning uniforms. In every schoolhouse recruiting meetings were held, and before the close of the summer four companies had been organized from Jo Daviess County.

The first casualties did not occur in battle. Captain B. B. Howard and seventeen of his company of "Anti-Beaure-Guards" were killed September 18, 1861, when a troop train plunged through a bridge across Beaver Creek, near Huron, Indiana. More than fifty others of the company were injured. The disaster was attributed to southern sympathizers and grief was tempered with indignation in Galena. The bodies were brought home for burial and the injured taken to the Galena Marine Hospital.

The little city distinguished itself for giving the Union more finished militarists than any other community of its size in the Nation. By the close of the war Galena's roster included Major General John A. Rawlins, Grant's Chief of Staff; Major General John E. Smith, a Main Street jeweler; Brigadier General Augustus L. Chetlain; Brigadier General Jasper A. Maltby; Brigadier General William R. Rowley; Brigadier General John Corson Smith; Brigadier General Ely S. Parker; Brigadier General John R. Duer, killed in action; Lieutenant Colonels Edward D. Kittoe and Melanchon Smith.

Grant's return on August 19, 1865, was one of Galena's greatest days. "Galena is in its glory today," a Chicago paper commented, "General

Grant has come back home. He arrived here after a triumphal journey from Chicago during which he was given ovations at every station and hamlet along the route. Minute guns were fired as the train passed. On arrival here General Grant was met at the station by fully 10,000 persons. He and his party went to the De Soto House, where 36 beautiful young ladies, dressed in white, formally greeted him. The Hon. E. B. Washburne delivered the address of welcome, after which General Grant went to his new home, presented by citizens of Galena at a cost of \$15,000, including the furnishings."

Galena's great day was spread across newspapers nationally, and pictures of the arch which spanned Main Street bearing a huge caption, "Hail to the chief who in triumph advances," were distributed broadcast. From all corners of the lead country and from counties as far east as Shephenson, Rock, Kane, Lake, and Cook, admirers of Grant gathered.

In 1868 Grant became president. Washburne, who had served 18 years in Congress, was subsequently named Secretary of State and later Minister to France, Chetlain became Consul General to Belgium, and Rawlins was appointed Secretary of War. The latter died in 1869.

By 1870 the mines and manufactories of the new area were no longer of national significance. The value of the county's produce greatly exceeded that of its lead, and upon agriculture henceforward the local economy was to depend.

As far back as 1867 the city had been forced to fund its bonded indebtedness of \$168,884.06, principal and interest. This debt represented ten separate bond issues through a decade in which the city had financed bridges, a market house, street lights, and river dredging.

No clearer illustration of Galena's decline can be given than that of a circular letter issued by the city in July 1867, in which bondholders were requested to turn in their old bonds and receive a funded new issue at 25 per cent of the old debt. The bonds were issued, creditors were informed, "at periods when the city was flourishing; when property was valuable and found



ready sale at high rates." The city's revenue from taxation was sufficient at that time to pay the interest, and the promise of "a glowing and prosperous future" was felt certain indication that the principal on the bonds would be paid at their maturity. "But," the letter continues, "since 1857 and 1858 business has gradually declined. The opening of the railroads from Chicago to Prairie du Chien and LaCrosse has diverted trade and travel from our city; the wholesale grocery and drygoods establishments which lined our levee and Main Street have disappeared and the large steamboat interest, which was concentrated in our city and gave animation to business, has almost ceased to exist." The administration called attention to a real estate decline which had severely cut the city's income. Property which had cost \$23,000 had been sold for \$6,000 and stores on Main Street which had cost \$7,500 were going for \$1,500. Some Main Street rents had fallen from \$1,000 to \$180 annually. The city's total assessment had fallen from \$1,500,000 in 1857 to \$450,000 in 1867.

Fugitive hopes were revived in 1872 when a Galena & Southern Wisconsin railroad company was organized to build a narrow gauge road to attract lead shipments through Galena. The city council authorized the road, but, like the enterprise of 1838, it failed to materialize.

So it was to a city which had lost the greater part of its commercial prestige that Grant returned, after a world tour, in 1879. Again Galena gave him an enthusiastic reception, more pretentious but no less sincere than that of 1865. Every home displayed flags, and the business streets were decorated as never before. Celebrities came from all parts of the country, and veterans gathered from almost every State in the union. The city's accommodations became inadequate, its streets too narrow for the parading military groups, drum corps, fraternal drill teams, marching societies, fire departments, and civic and social groups from every corner of northern Illinois. At night fireworks were displayed from an arch above Main Street near the DeSoto House.

Unfortunately, a premature explosion ignited the arch, severely burning many persons. Postmaster Warren W. Huntington, in charge of the program and a personal friend of Grant, sustained burns from which he died some weeks later.

The Grants took up residence in the gift home, where they lived until 1881; in that year they went to New York City, where Grant died on July 25, 1885. Shortly after, Galenians formed the Grant Birthday Association, which until recently held annual celebrations.

Since Grant's death Galena has been host to many renowned persons during the birthday celebrations. In 1892 Chauncey M. Depew was the speaker of the day when Herman H. Kohlsaat, native Galenian and Chicago publisher, presented to the city the bronze statue of Grant which stands in Grant Park. A soldiers' monument, which had been built at the courthouse in 1883, was moved to Grant Park at the same time. Members of the Grant family were at the dedication. A cannon from the captured Spanish gunboat *Vizcaya*, was placed in the park in 1900.

President McKinley and his cabinet, on a tour of the West in 1898, visited Galena, and several years later McKinley revisited the city to attend a Grant celebration.

In 1900, Theodore Roosevelt, then Vice President, was the Grant Day speaker at Turner Hall. In 1904 General Frederick Dent Grant, Grant's oldest son, presented the Grant home to the city. Speaking for his family, General Grant requested that the home become a memorial to be preserved as his father had left it in 1881. It was accepted by the city subject to this request and remained Galena's property until 1932, when it was presented to the Illinois State Department of Works and Buildings.



## Landmarks and Watermarks

MORE fine examples of early Illinois architecture survive today in Galena than in any other one place, and the standards of taste and construction prevailing here compare favorably with the best of the same period in the East and South. Galena is a city of many hills, up which streets and stairways climb tortuously. Main Street's unique four-storied buildings, with those deep stone light areas behind showing only two stories on Bench Street above, the unexpected glimpses of mansions and quaint cottages on every hand, memories of lead mining and of Grant—these combine to create Galena's peculiar charm.

The Stockade, the Dowling stone house, the Soulards' home and numerous cottages, many enclosing log cabins, recall stirring times of Indian alarms and roaring mining days. By the early 1820's the lead country was attracting French, Cornish and Welsh, Southerners and Indianians. An aristocratic element from down the river fixed upon the young city the cultivated architectural tastes of old St. Louis and New Orleans, and New England's prim culture is perpetuated in stone and brick residences and public buildings.

By the late 1840's Galena was in its heyday, with the finest buildings and the richest and most enterprising citizens in the State. The old Market House, a distinguished early American building now undergoing reconstruction, and the Hoge, Smith and Stouffer homes, all the work of H. J. Stouffer, belong to this period. Along Bench Street can be seen homes where lived such families as the Ryans, Dowlings, Gratiots, and Stahls, and across the river are the Telford house and Washburne house, the latter interestingly remodeled at a later date.

Grace Episcopal Church, literally carved from the rocky cliff behind and, nearby, the Presbyterian Church on Bench Street, are types of early church design, one Gothic and the other Greek Revival. Old St. Michael's was the first Roman Catholic edifice in Galena and was designed by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, remembered in the lead country for his good work and excellent architecture. He it was who planned the chaste stone porticoed courthouse, now so disfigured by ill-advised alterations, as well as Sinsinawa Convent, the little wood church at New Diggings, Wisconsin, and many others.

Before the Civil War Midwesterners sought to build their homes and public structures in accord with an architectural enthusiasm for Hellenism then sweeping the country. College societies, names of towns, classic studies, all were Greek. Thus with the miners' tools came also the carpenters' handbook with finely drawn exemplars of Greek architecture to be carefully executed in the new land as in the older East and South. For in the pioneer's buildings can be plainly read the courageous story of his struggle and success as well as the region from which he emigrated. Galena's many graceful porticoes, with glistening white columns against softly warm brick, speak eloquently of southern origins.

The DeSoto House, though reduced two stories and robbed of its ornate cast-iron balcony, is still fairly representative of a sumptuous Midwest hotel of the fifties. Down Main Street is the less pretentious Mississippi House, in one of Galena's least changed business blocks. At the other end of the street is the Dowling warehouse, with a fine cast-iron balcony. The city was formerly full of such decorative iron work, but ignorance of its value has permitted most of it to be lost.

Nowhere else can the general decay which overtook American architecture about Civil War time be better observed than in Galena. Along in the fifties, Greek chasteness and handicrafts began to be replaced by machine-made and rococo imitations of the French and Italian. Ulysses Grant's admirable little brick house offers instance of this decadence when contrasted with the extravagant bad taste and jig-sawed excesses of his second house across the river.

But not all the Galena generals fared so badly, architecturally speaking. General Smith's house, previously mentioned, is a landmark of early Midwest design, Rawlins' is delightfully done in the wood Gothic manner, and General Chetlain's, situated in its fine acres on the heights beyond the city, is a charming example of wood architecture wherein successive alterations, each in character with the particular time, have achieved harmony. Chetlain's pioneer log house is immured in one end of the structure.

The environs of Galena also possess fine architecture predating the Civil War. Council Hill has an authentic stage road tavern; old farm houses dot the countryside everywhere. Tumbled down little brick and stone houses of Creole galleried type, suggestive of the Latin Quarter of New Orleans, abound. These were once miners' homes.

Thus is seen here, nearly unchanged, the pageant of Midwest American architecture from the 1820's to the late 1870's, when the last of the wealthy mine owners' houses was built. Galena's early crudities, its period of glorious prosperity and its graceful decadence still live in its architecture. It is to be hoped that the people of the State at large and Galena's own citizens find means and understanding to preserve for all time its Greek Revival antiquities, which will become as significant to the Midwest as is the Colonial to the East.

In one of several efforts to revive river transportation, a Government dredging fleet removed the silt from the Galena River in 1890 and dam and locks were erected below the city. The dam was financed by private capital but was purchased by the United States Government in 1894. The locks were removed and the project abandoned in 1922, when Galena resigned herself to the river's innavigability. It has not floated a freight barge since 1916.

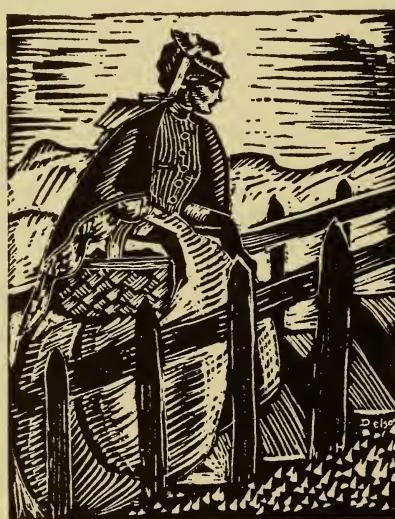
The river which guided explorers to Galena and carried its lead to market is no longer of commercial importance. Scarcely more than a rivulet, it occasionally gives forceful reminder of its past. On February 19, 1937 it began to rise and by Sunday, February 21, reached its crest and established a new high water mark which sent newsreel men scampering to Galena. Damages were conservatively estimated at \$300,000, and two lives were lost.

At some points along Main Street the waters rose over five feet above street level, and so rapidly that many merchants were helpless to protect their stocks. In the building of J. W. Coatsworth, part of which was once the J. R. Grant & Sons leather store, the water stood well above five feet. Original Grant leases stored in the Coatsworth safe were soaked till their signatures are now scarcely legible.

Spring freshets have caused many floods at Galena since the first high water mark was recorded on Main Street in 1828. In 1859 water damage was so great that Main and Commerce Streets were elevated; but this precaution, while minimizing effects of occasional minor floods, failed in 1870, 1880, 1892, 1896 and 1916.

So extensive was the damage wrought by the 1937 flood that Galena, which has usually accepted its river's caprices philosophically, began discussing control measures. There is talk of high levees, of widening the river's mouth, and also of a dam north of the city to impound flood waters. Fear is expressed that the flood danger may be increased when the Bellevue dam, now being built eight miles below the confluence of the Galena and Mississippi rivers, is completed.

Unless some control measure is successfully effected, it is conceivable that the little river which was responsible for Galena's birth and early prosperity may ultimately destroy the town.



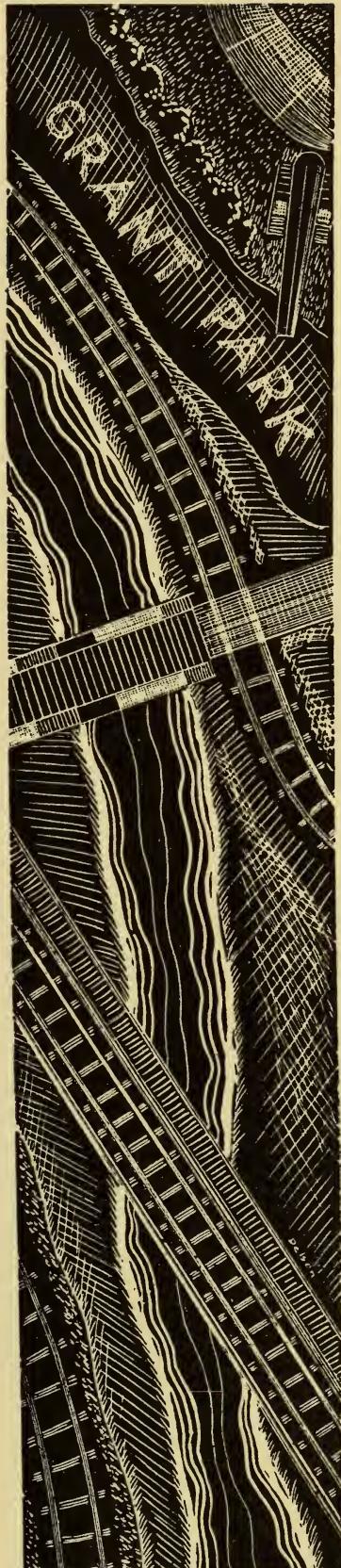
## Strolling Our Streets

GALENA'S streets are lined with landmarks of the city's golden age. A tour might start from Spring Street on U.S. 20, at the foot of Bench, one block west of Main and the U.S. 20 bridge, and proceed north up the Bench Street hill to the terrace on the face of the bluff where Bench Street becomes a narrow shelf forty feet above Main, which is on the right approximately 100 feet below Prospect. Ascending the Bench Street hill on either side stand weather-worn brick buildings. At the crest of the incline to the left stands the PUBLIC LIBRARY, a modern structure.

The first Galena Library Association was organized in 1835. The present building, a gift of the Andrew Carnegie Foundation and the B. F. Felt estate, was completed in 1908 and houses a well-rounded collection.

From the street in front of the library is an uninterrupted view down the slope to Main Street, which there flanks the Galena River. The stream is narrow and sluggish, flowing through the wide commons that were its bed in the days when the stream carried a heavy commerce and many excursionists.

West of the library is SOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, a Gothic structure built in 1848. Across the street are the old GRAIN HOUSES, four four-story brick warehouses with their third-floor entrances on Bench Street. Their great bins now are empty and the buildings practically abandoned. But once heavily loaded grain wagons crowded Bench Street from these warehouses for seven blocks north to Franklin Street. The wagons were unloaded and the grain was dropped from the third floor to the Main Street level, where it was sacked and carried by Negroes to barges bound for New Orleans. In later years great quantities of wheat were freighted up the Mississippi to Minneapolis for milling, and much of the flour found its way back to Galena for distribution. Each granary



was built into the hill instead of merely against it, for each site was excavated to the level of Main Street and a large semi-circular retaining wall built against the bluff up to the edge of Bench Street for the double purpose of guarding against earth-slides and to allow masons room for the erection of the bluff side wall of the buildings. Windows on the lower floors thus gain light from these deep, well-like areaways. Bridges span the gap of six or eight feet from the street curb to the granaries' third-floor entrances.

To the left, toward the end of a row of brick dwellings of which many still have iron-grilled windows and heavy wooden shutters, stand FEEHAN HALL and ANNUNCIATION SCHOOL. This hall has been a center of social activity for Roman Catholics since the late 1880's.

A short distance farther is a distinctive Galena institution, the HIGH SCHOOL STEPS. A wide short flight on the right leads up from the Main Street level and across, on the left, narrower flights with frequent landings rise 100 feet to Prospect Street. At each landing benches wait for the winded and foot-weary.

Just south of the steps on Bench Street is the former Second Presbyterian Church, now the American Legion Hall. Immediately north of the steps on the left side of the street is the NEWHALL HOME, a massive structure topped by an octagonal cupola, which has been one of the city's outstanding homes for many years. Doctor Horatio Newhall, who built the home, had varied interests. He established the oldest existing drug store in the State. During the Asiatic cholera epidemic of 1832 and during the Black Hawk War he was in charge of hospitalization of all of the wounded and most of the sick of an army of 5,000, and he was responsible for the establishment of the Marine Hospital in the city's south corner. In 1828 he assisted in editing the *Miners Journal*, for which subscriptions were, to quote the newspaper itself, "\$3.50 a year, payable in lead or cash."

Next is ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, belonging to the oldest Roman Catholic parish in the Rockford diocese. There was a resident pastor in Galena before Father St. Cyr selected a lot on Lake Street for the first Catholic church in Chicago. In 1827 the Irish-American residents of the lead mine district, numbering nearly 7,000, petitioned the Bishop of St. Louis to send them a pastor. The Reverend Father Vincent Badin established the parish, but no building was erected for eight years; then, under the third pastor, the missionary Charles Samuel Mazzuchelli, O.P., the cornerstone was laid and the building completed in 1842. In 1848 the first parochial school was opened. In 1856 the church was razed by a fire which destroyed 38 buildings in the neighborhood.

The present church was built soon after, but the school did not reopen until 1870. The Shrine of the Little Flower in St. Michael's was dedicated in 1928. Names of visitors from many lands are in its register.

Opposite the church on the right side of Bench is a row of brick homes with the aspect of a small European village; they stand on a slope and entrance to their second floors is by narrow bridges from the sidewalk.

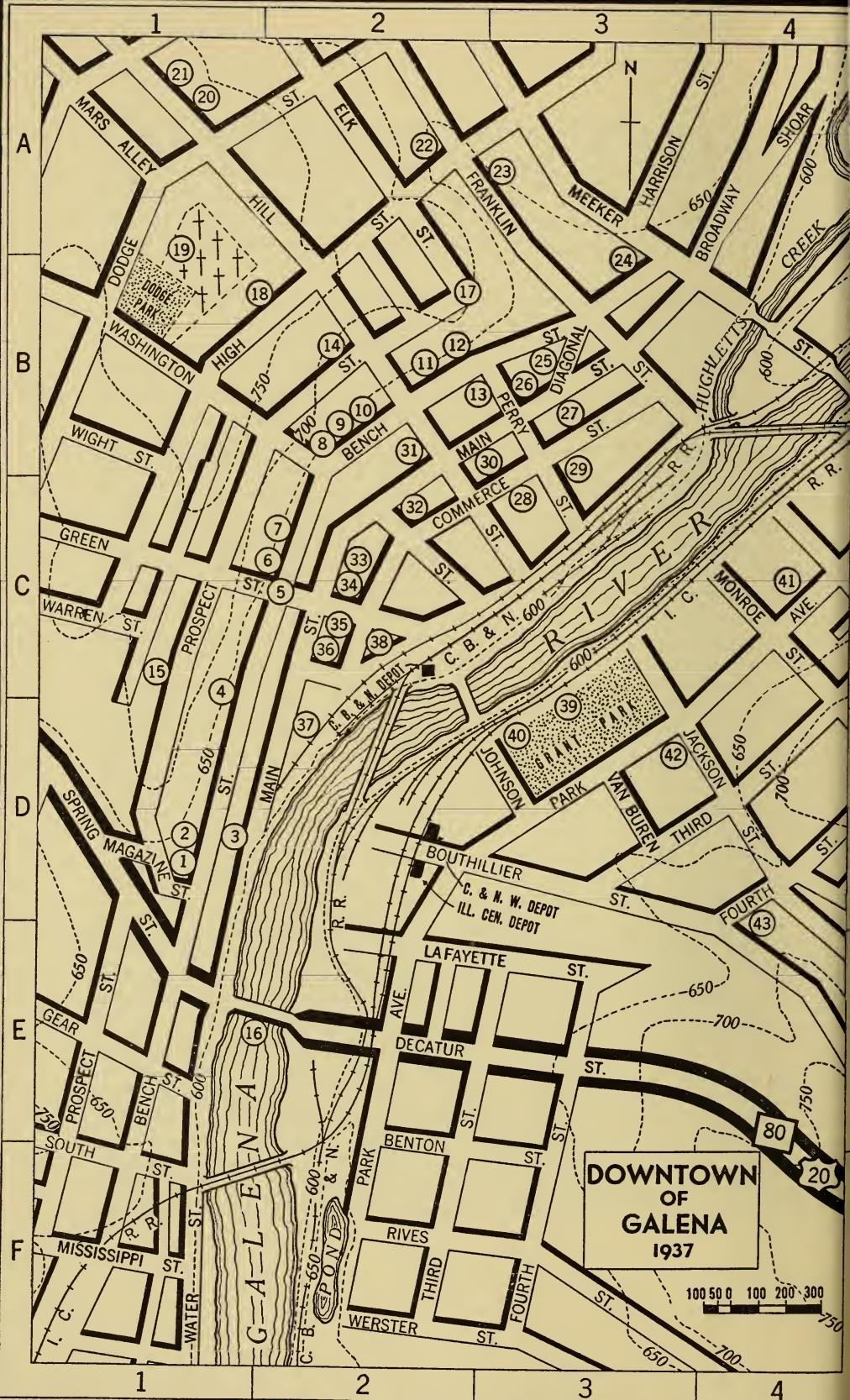
At the corner of Washington and Bench is the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, built in 1853. Bishop John Vincent, its first pastor, was the founder of the Lake Chautauqua (N. Y.), Assembly which suggested the commercialized traveling chautauqua of later years. The pew where the Grant family prayed has been preserved here. Bench could easily have been named Church Street, as most of the city's eight churches are either on or near it.

Up Bench Street one comes to TURNER HALL, a gray stone auditorium surrounded by a terraced lawn. It is now the local headquarters of a fraternal organization. Here many civic and social functions are held, and here Theodore Roosevelt and William McKinley addressed Galena. It has been gutted by fire and remodeled since it was built in 1874, but the rounded, double decked boxes beside the stage recall the heyday of the Victorian stage.

Halfway down the next block and to the left is the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, built in 1838. Some say the steeple, added in 1854, is a reproduction of that on the old South Church in Boston and others that an early pastor duplicated that of a church he had observed in a Swiss valley. Its founder was Aratus Kent, Yale and Princeton graduate, whose zeal brought him from New England to the West. He is said to have appealed to the American Missionary Society for a difficult assignment. "Send me to a place that is so hard that no one else will take it," he urged. So he was sent to Galena, and, arriving on a Sunday, cleaned out an unfinished store, set up benches and conducted the first Presbyterian service. In 1831 he organized the First Presbyterian Church of Galena with a nucleus of six persons. He also pioneered in education and in the anti-slavery movement. He was one of the founders of Beloit and Rockford colleges. His brother, Germanicus, settled in Rockford, seat of Winnebago County, in 1835. In the forties the Reverend Kent's church was the largest west of Chicago. In 1832 he convinced Amasa B. Campbell that the latter should come to Galena and open a school for boys. Campbell remained for fifteen years, being succeeded by Dr. George Magoun, who later became first President of Grinnell College at Grinnell, Iowa. Kent was appointed general superintendent of home missions for the Northwest in 1855.

Two doors north of the Presbyterian Church is the JAMES DOWLING HOUSE, a white-pillared, tan brick, Colonial home built in 1847. This home was used by the novelist, Janet Ayer Fairbank, as the home of the heroine of *The Bright Land*. The house was built by James Dowling, son of John Dowling and brother of Nicholas.

On the next corner is a small home with a sprawling roof, flanked by cobble-stoned Perry Street, which here descends sharply to Main. This is the site of the AMOS FARRAR CABIN, the present structure being built on the foundation and around the upright logs of the original cabin. When the stockade was built, during the Black Hawk War, Farrar's cabin was on the inside and the underground rooms were prepared as refuge for women and children. Visitors are welcome to this blockhouse home, and may hear from Margaret Gardner, a member of the second family to occupy it, stories of



its early days. One may see the upright logs and hear tales of the old stockade from Miss Gardner, who taught school in Galena more than half a century. The first occupants were the Farrars; Mrs. Farrar was the first woman school teacher in Galena.

A trench walled in by heavy timbers connected the stockade and the blockhouse on the hill to the west. The stockade embraced the area one block north and one block south of this spot and running east and west from Main to Prospect at the top of the hill. On this ground several other homes were built by settlers who abandoned their cabins during the war.

On Hill and Prospect Streets stands the GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, built in 1847. It is a gray stone, vine-covered building, buttressed and castellated in Tudor style. Stained-glass windows, imported from Belgium, cast bright colors across the aisle leading to the hand-carved walnut altar. The altar is flanked by walnut choir stalls, each an exhibition of the woodcarver's art. Back of the stalls to the left is the organ, a one-manual instrument, and behind the organ are hand-operated bellows and pump. It was brought from Philadelphia by sailing vessel to New Orleans and then by steamboat to Galena to be installed in a frame chapel, built in 1838. This was the first organ brought to the Northwest and was presented to the church by Captain Hezekiah H. Gear.

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#### POINTS OF INTEREST

1—Public Library .....	D1	24—Court House .....	A3
2—South Presbyterian Church .....	D1	25—John Dowling House .....	B3
3—Grain Houses .....	D1	26—Nicholas Dowling Store .....	B3
4—Feehan Hall & Annunciation School .....	C1	27—First Court House .....	B3
5—High School Steps .....	C2	28—Market Square .....	C3
6—Newhall Home .....	C2	29—Lawrence House .....	B3
7—St. Michael's Church .....	C2	30—Grant and Perkins Store .....	B2
8—Methodist Episcopal Church .....	B2	31—Siniger & Siniger Drug Store .....	B2
9—Methodist Manse .....	B2	32—Grant Leather Store .....	C2
10—Turner Hall .....	B2	33—Galena Gazette .....	C2
11—First Presbyterian Church .....	B2	34—De Soto Hotel .....	C2
12—James Dowling House .....	B2	35—First Customs House .....	C2
13—Amos Farrar Cabin .....	B2	36—Lead Mine Cigar Factory .....	C2
14—Grace Episcopal Church .....	B2	37—Old Commission House .....	D2
15—High School .....	C1	38—Present Post Office .....	C2
16—U. S. 20 Bridge .....	E1	39—Grant Park .....	D3
17—Fort .....	B2	40—Grant Our Citizen .....	D3
18—First Grant Home .....	B1	41—Union House .....	C4
19—Old Cemetery .....	B1	42—Joseph Hoge House .....	D3
20—Rawlins Home .....	A1	43—Grant Memorial House .....	D4
21—Rowley Home .....	A1	C. & N. W. R. R. Sta. ....	D2
22—St. Mary's Church .....	A2	Ill. Central R. R. Sta. ....	D2
23—St. Joseph's Halle .....	A3	C. B. & N. R. R. Sta. ....	C1
		Dodge Park .....	B1

To the right of the altar is the winter chapel. The lectern is in the church proper, a five-foot stand surmounted by an eagle, the entire piece carved from one walnut block. On the back of the eagle rests a bible printed by the Oxford University Press in 1847.

South on Prospect Street one comes to the METHODIST MANSE, a small box-like red brick structure overhanging the bluff. It was built directly above the first Methodist Church building, erected in 1833 on Bench Street below. This manse was the home of Bishop Vincent, pioneer educator and founder and editor of Methodist publications. At the end of this street is the GALENA HIGH SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM. The plaza in front of the school is a vantage point from which one has an excellent view of the city, the river valley, and the hills beyond.



Directly across the valley is Horseshoe Mound, one of the state's highest points. To the right is a square brick building topped by a square cupola, the Marine Hospital, built in 1857 and at that time the largest hospital north of St. Louis. Over the door remains a plate reading "United States Marine Hospital." The building is now privately owned and occupied and is closed to the public.

The construction engineer of this hospital was Ely Parker, a full-blooded, well-educated Seneca. His Indian name was Do-ne-ho-ga-wa, signifying "Keeper of the West Gate." He was born on the reservation at Tonawanda, N. Y., and was descended from the famous Red Jacket. Parker was a civil engineer for Government buildings in Galena at the outbreak of the Civil War. For gallant conduct in the Vicksburg campaign he was commissioned Brigadier General and became military secretary to Grant. After the war he was appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but retired in 1871 to devote himself to engineering.

Up the river and leading through the hills is U.S. 20. To the left of the highway halfway up the hill is the GRANT MEMORIAL HOME. To the left of the home and at the river's edge is Grant Park, where the statue of *Grant Our Citizen* stands.

The site of the old FORT is at the peak of Prospect Street. A boulder marker by the Daughters of the American Revolution designates the spot where stood the watch tower built in 1832. From this point Elk Street follows the brink of the bluff. Below the street level on the right, gables and chimneys stipple the steep fall of the hillside, and far below lies Franklin Street, one of the principal arteries of Old Galena. A turn to the left on High Street, one block from Prospect, brings the spire of St. Mary's to view.

At 121 High Street, in the second block from Elk, is the square brick house which was the FIRST GRANT HOME. Here Grant lived with his wife and four small children, Frederick, Ulysses, Jesse, and Nellie, until the Civil War.

A little pioneer graveyard, the OLD GALENA CEMETERY, is north of Washington on Dodge Street, just a block from High. Here are the graves of many first settlers; some of them hold remains of easterners who died before 1812 and were brought west by relatives who had made homes in Galena. Many miners from Cornwall are buried here. The plot was given to the city by Captain Hezekiah H. Gear, who came to Galena in 1827 and chanced upon a rich deposit in Tower Hill. He was a native of Connecticut and a veteran of the War of 1812. He farmed in Massachusetts and later worked in a tannery in Upper Alton, Illinois. After illness had impoverished him he came with a party of Ohioans to the Galena diggings, where he prospected successfully for several years. In 1832 he organized a company for the Black Hawk campaign, returning to find his debts heavy and his family in need. Shortly after, he discovered a lode on Tower Hill from which he eventually took 26,000,000 pounds of ore.

Captain Gear's modest residence, still standing on South Bench, became the home not only of his large family but for several of his relatives, clerks, and bookkeepers of his store. In this home Gear entertained many prominent people of his day, including Martin Van Buren and Alexander Hamilton's wife. Gear interested himself in smelting, lumber, river trade, and in time became the wealthiest man in the region; recalling his own poverty, he assisted deserving miners throughout the area. Among his gifts were lots for the erection of the First Presbyterian and First Methodist Churches. He also contributed the principal fund for the Grace Episcopal Church of which his brother, the Reverend Gilbert Gear, subsequently became rector. John H. Gear, son of Gilbert and nephew of Captain Gear, later became a legislator in Iowa and Governor of that State.

Down Hill Street to the left of the old Galena cemetery are the RAWLINS HOME and the ROWLEY HOME, two small neatly built batten-board houses. General John A. Rawlins, a personal friend of Grant and his Secretary of War, lived at 517 Hill Street. He was born in Galena and a

statue of him stands in Washington, D. C. General William R. Rowley, who lived at 515 Hill Street, was clerk of the circuit court when he was commissioned a brigadier general and provost marshal on Grant's staff. It was in Rowley's office that Grant awaited word of his third nomination by the Republican convention, only to hear that Garfield had been chosen. Rowley's counsel assisted Grant throughout his career.

On Franklin Street, after a row of shuttered red brick houses along the ridge to the south, stands ST. MARY'S. The parish was established in 1850 when Bishop Van de Velde came from Chicago to organize the German Catholics of Galena. In 1856 the first brick structure was erected following the plans of Father Mazzuchelli. Upon completion of the church, Father Mazzuchelli presented a marble altar. The Reverend Father Bally was pastor from 1862 until 1914 and during his pastorate built an addition to the rear of the building and, with an inheritance from the estate of Leopold de Massuir, paid for the steeple. The sanctuary windows and the painting of the *Assumption* were donated by Massuir. The rectory to the west of the church was built in 1917 at a cost of \$20,000 and in the previous year a large addition to the school was built.

Franklin Street is a strange little thoroughfare as it approaches Bench Street from the northwest. Its odd houses, with overhanging balconies, face each other across narrow pavements with a placidity suggestive of long association.

ST. JOSEPH'S HALLE, an old German meeting house, stands to the left near the corner of Franklin and Bench Streets, and a little farther, on the hill to the left, is the county jail which has served the city and county for nearly 75 years. One block north of Franklin, on Bench, is the COURT HOUSE, the first of many local buildings in American Colonial style. It was built in 1839. In 1900 the columns on the face of the building were removed and an addition built.

Down on Main and Diagonal is the JOHN DOWLING HOUSE, the oldest structure still standing in Galena. Built in 1828 by John Dowling with help of his son Nicholas, it was unique at that time, in a log cabin settlement, for its gray stone. Today its windows are out, its roof sags, and the long high porch which once crossed its front is gone. Only its heavy walls, of native Galena stone, resist time and neglect. Next door is the NICHOLAS DOWLING STORE, now a grain and feed market. Nicholas Dowling was one of the Northwest's earliest entrepreneurs and is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Directly across Main Street stands the FIRST COURT HOUSE, a two-story gray stone building easily distinguished by six portholes on the second floor. The building, now a monument works, was built by Nicholas Dowling in 1838 for a store, and for a time was rented by the county. It held the first theater of the lead mining area, when the Jefferson-McKenzie players came from Chicago in open wagons to play in Galena until early in 1839; they then left for a month, and returned to await the opening of the river in April.

After an extended tour the troupe split and the elder Jefferson died. Young Joe Jefferson attended the Campbell school next door to the courthouse.

On Perry and Commerce stands the old MARKET SQUARE. On the near corner is an iron watering-trough emptying from two lions' heads. In the center of the square is the Market house, a small limestone building of Grecian line and quiet charm, built in 1845. It was recently remodeled to serve as a city hall. In this square one once could buy a chicken, a hog, a cow, a cabbage, a horse, or a slave. Prim matrons in hoop skirts and Paisley shawls mingled with blue-jeaned farmers and miners in ocher-stained flannel shirts and leather boots. Trappers in buckskin leggings, Indians in beads and blankets elbowed each other in busy stalls, haggling over prices, greeting friends and exchanging gossip.

Opposite the market house, on the northwest corner of Perry and Commerce, is a three-story brick building built in 1831. This was once the LAWRENCE HOUSE, one of the most popular hotels of the old Northwest, now a public garage. Had its registers not been lost, the pages would show the names of many who led the conquest of the Middle Border.

Crossing the square to Hill and going one block west returns one to Main; a modern paved street, it runs nine blocks through the business district, merging with Broadway on the north and losing itself in Water Street soon after it skirts the old levee. Main was once a narrow, rocky trail which angled into the town from the northeast, paralleling the river to pass between rows of pioneer stores, taverns, and warehouses, and ending at the levee. In those days it was flanked with board walks and resounded to pounding shod hoofs and the rumbling of lead-burdened carts and the wheels of ox-drawn prairie schooners. Today Main Street has the dignity of age and individuality with each landmark possessing a story of its own.

Two doors north of the corner of Hill and Main is a three-story building which was the GRANT AND PERKINS STORE, the second business location of the leather store in which Grant worked for his father. On the northeast corner of Main and Hill is the SINIGER AND SINIGER DRUG STORE, established in 1834 and in continuous operation since.

Halfway down the block is the building in which, in the late fifties, was the GRANT LEATHER STORE, at 120 Main. This is the store in which Grant went to work in 1860.

Between Washington and Green, on the east side of Main, is the *Galena Gazette*, established as a weekly in 1834 and as a daily in 1841. The *Gazette* today is merged with the *Galena Advertiser* and *Upper Mississippi Herald*, established in 1830. Both the files of the *Gazette* and the *Advertiser* have been preserved.

On Main and Green is the DE SOTO HOTEL, built in 1855. The Bradley House, Bryne House, Gear House, and City Hotel, and a number less pretentious, were already operating then, but the De Soto was planned as something more representative of a growing community. It had five stories, cost \$85,000, and had over two hundred rooms. On the first floor was a

large dining room equipped in the latest mode, a large lobby and grill. A staircase spiraled from the lobby to a second-floor balcony on which were well-appointed parlors for women. Its velvet carpets, rosewood furniture, satin curtains, gilt-framed mirrors, sofas, divans, and chairs with intricately carved backs and plush upholstery, marble top tables, and ornamental statuary then were the acme of elegance. Later there were five barrooms in the building, the largest of which was in the basement, a spacious room with a saw-dust floor where miners and rivermen gathered. In the basement also were a room for ten-pins and a large gambling room. Horace Greeley was a guest the year the hotel was completed. James Russell Lowell was there the same year. In 1856 Abraham Lincoln addressed Galenians from the balcony which ran along the face of the building above Main Street. General Grant maintained a suite there for headquarters whenever he was in the city. Room No. 4 on the second floor was a gathering place for the General's friends.

One block south of the De Soto House is the LEAD MINE CIGAR FACTORY, a four-story brick building, the oldest cigar factory in the Northwest, in operation since 1864. Just south of it is a row of brick buildings which were warehouses, and across the street, now occupied by a dairy firm, is a building which once was the OLD COMMISSION HOUSE, where water-front business was transacted. Turning to the left it is a short block to the railroad tracks which now cover the cobbles of the old levee. At this point the Galena River was sufficiently wide to let the largest Mississippi steamer swing around for its return trip. The levee was the heart of Galena, and the river was Galena's lifeline to the South. With the coming of the railroad the city was linked to the East and associations there strengthened. Thus the railroads modified, and eventually severed, Galena's bonds with the South.

One block north on Commerce Street is the FIRST CUSTOMS HOUSE and FORMER POST OFFICE, and directly across the street, the PRESENT POST OFFICE, where hangs the original of the Thomas Nast painting, *Lee's Surrender at Appomattox*. With Grant in the picture are General Rawlins and General Parker, who was construction engineer for the present post office building. Other Galenians in the picture who achieved prominence through Grant's friendship are General Augustus Chetlain, later Consul General to Belgium; General John C. Smith, Lieutenant Governor of Illinois after being State Treasurer; J. Russell Jones, Minister to Belgium; H. H. Houghton, Consul to the Hawaiian Islands, and General John E. Smith, a statue of whom stands in the Illinois Memorial in the Vicksburg National Park. Grant called Nast "the most prominent figure in civil life to come out of the war of the rebellion." The Tammany tiger, the Republican elephant, and Democratic donkey were Nast's conceptions. He came to America from Bavaria in 1846 and copied paintings while door-keeping at a gallery. While cartooning for *Leslies* and *Harper's*, Lincoln called him "the best recruiting sergeant." Theodore Roosevelt told Nast, "I learned my politics from your cartoons." His greatest service was his assistance in the destruction of New York's Tweed ring. His lampooning of Greeley is

said to have hastened the latter's death. Nast was appointed consul to Ecuador, where he died of yellow fever in 1902.

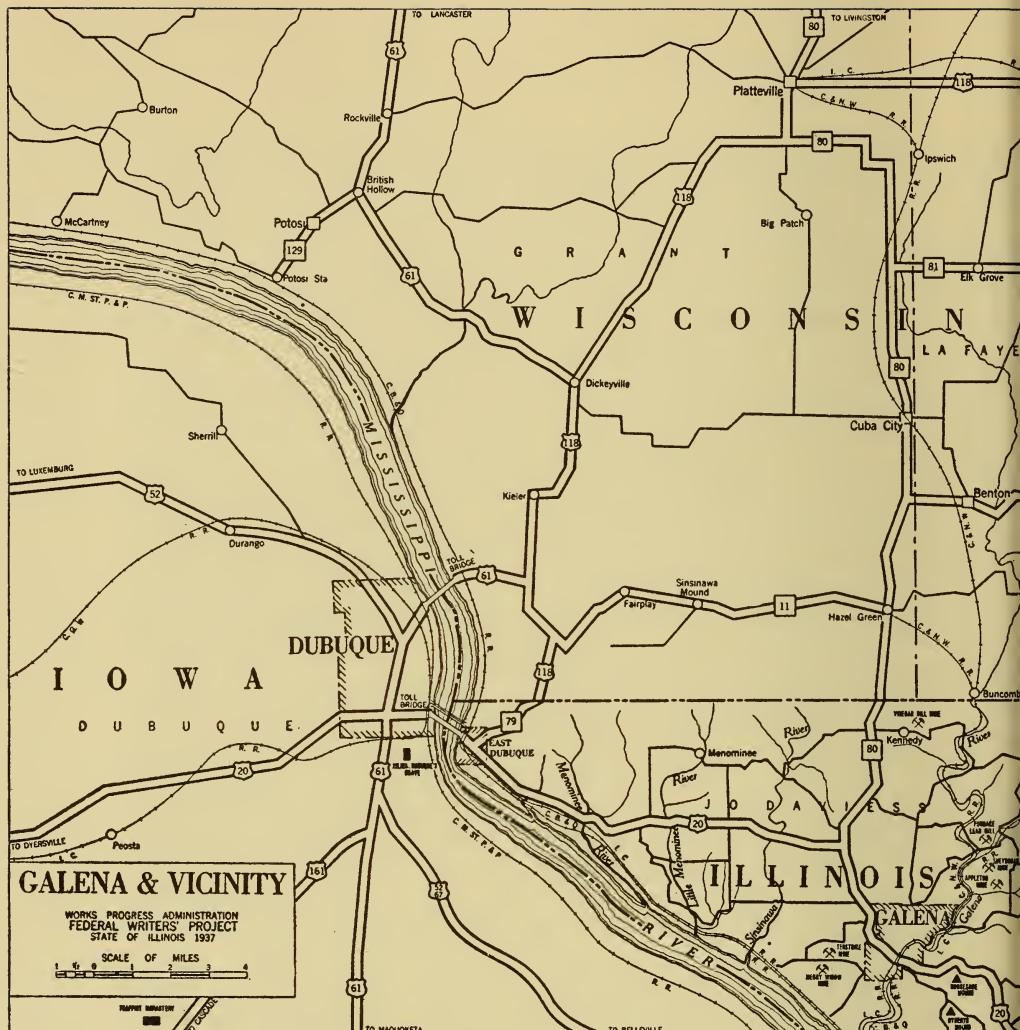
One turns right to cross the tracks, then the river, now so irretrievably choked. Once more than 300 feet wide and floating large steamboats, this river which has borne the Indian, explorer, settler, excursionist and missionary is now but a few feet deep. Across it lies GRANT PARK, where Grant's statue stands. This bronze was presented to the city by Herman Kohlsaat, a native of Galena and publisher of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*. On the monument's base is inscribed a list of Grant's battles. Here too is a monument to all the soldiers and sailors of all the wars of the nation. Tennis courts, picnic grounds, fountains, and shaded walks augment the park's charm.

Through Grant Park one reaches Park Avenue; to the left are the UNION HOUSE, and the JOSEPH HOGE HOUSE. The former is at 403 Park Avenue, and when built in 1839 was a tavern accommodating four boarders. A stairway led from the stilted porch to the river below. It was convenient to the railroad depot built in the 1850's and near the starting points for all outgoing Mississippi steamers. It was advertised as "a quiet and comfortable home commanding a fine view of the city and suburbs."

The Joseph Hoge House at 512 Park Avenue has won the attention of the Department of the Interior as one of those buildings selected by the advisory committee of the Historic American Buildings Survey as possessing exceptional architectural interest. A record of its present appearance and condition has been deposited in the Library of Congress. The home represents a distinctive type of Southern Colonial architecture. The fourteen panels of Russian engraved glass surrounding the solid oak door in the vestibule employed a hand engraving technique now almost lost. The unusually designed fireplaces, the hand-carved woodwork, and the self-supporting staircase are worth observation.

One block from the corner of Johnson and Park is the East Galena Town Hall and a municipal waterworks, and to the left, up the long incline of Bouthillier Street, stands the GRANT MEMORIAL HOME, a two-story brick, wide-eaved building commanding a sweeping view of the valley. It was built in 1857 and was presented to Grant by Galena after the war. It now contains a spacious parlor, a library and many bedrooms, all appointed with Grant heirlooms. Dishes on the plate rail in the dining room were used in the White House during Grant's administration, as was the silver on the buffet. It is open from 9 to 5 daily, free.

One block east is St. Michael's Cemetery, in which many Irish, German, and Belgian settlers are buried. A crumbling column towers over the grave of Nicholas Dowling and fenced by rusting iron, are tiny plots in which are buried many of Galena's pioneers. This their journey's end, also is ours.



## Environs

MANY points of interest intimately connected with early Galena can be found only a short distance from the city. Several villages of Jo Daviess County and some in southwestern Wisconsin are picturesque reminders of the mining era. A few of these old mining towns are taking on new life as the lead and zinc industries slowly revive.

APPLE RIVER CANYON, northeastern Jo Daviess County, is a State park set aside mainly for its unusual formation of limestone cliffs which have been carved out of the hills by Apple River. This quiet spot was once the home of the war-like Sauks, who were driven out as whites began to trek

through the canyon on their way to the mines at Galena. Here was established the town of Millville, of which not a trace remains. It was named after its two saw mills, one of which was erected in 1836 and the other in 1838. Later they were remodeled into grist mills.

Millville became a well known stop on the Galena-Chicago stage coach line established by Frink & Walker. During the Black Hawk War settlers here were driven from their homes by Indians, but later returned. Millville flourished until 1854, when the Illinois Central Railroad, then building its lines from Freeport to Galena, passed four miles north of the town. In 1892 a devastating flood washed out the dam, carried away many of the buildings, and drove its people out forever. This canyon is 37 miles from Galena and can be reached by way of Stockton where U.S. 20 and Illinois 78 join. (Drive north from this point six miles and then three and one-half miles west.)

Many small towns in Grant County, southern Wisconsin, played a part in the growth of Galena in the mining days. The mining country stretched into Wisconsin and across the Mississippi.

HAZEL GREEN, Wis., now a typical farming center, was called "Hardscrabble" and was the center of many mines. How the name "Hardscrabble" originated is uncertain, but the "scrabble" part is believed to have been a corruption of "scramble." Hazel Green was the first place in Grant County to be occupied by miners from the Galena settlement. Its first miner, John Bonner, operated there in 1825. In the Hazel Green cemetery is the grave of James Gates Percival, a poet of national renown, a linguist and geologist. In 1853 he went to Wisconsin to examine and superintend the mines in the vicinity. He was appointed State geologist in 1854. Hazel Green is ten miles from Galena. Drive west on U.S. 20 three miles, then north on Illinois 80. This route is that of the old Galena-Hazel Green plank road.

POTOSI, Wis., among the hills, was the scene of many mining ventures. It is approximately 35 miles from Galena and can be reached by travelling west on U.S. 20 to East Dubuque, turning right on Illinois 79 which, three miles onward, joins U.S. 118. Continue on this highway through Kieler to Dickeyville, Wisconsin. Turn left on U.S. 61 to British Hollow. Potosi lies a short distance south.

Potosi was first called Snake Hollow, and in 1837 the town was booming with mining activity. Very possibly it was near Potosi that Le Sueur, in 1700, found a lead mine. In 1840 Potosi was the largest town in the western part of the State and ranked with Galena in both wholesale and retail trade. River towns and trading posts as far north as Fort Snelling laid in their supplies at Potosi. This town was strung out for three miles within a valley so narrow as to permit but one street. Potosi, like Galena, was an important river town until 1847, when it began to decline rapidly because the Grant Slough, connecting the town with the Mississippi, filled in, keeping steamers from Lafayette Landing. The town is worth a visit, if only to view its odd location and quaint buildings.

Other towns that reached their peak during the lead mining era include Benton, Platteville, Leadmine and New Diggings, all in Wisconsin. These towns now rely on retail trade for their existence. They can be reached easily over good roads from Galena. Benton, 16 miles from Galena, was a typical mining town; the peak of its prosperity came, however, during the World War, when hundreds of foreign laborers were brought there to work the mines. Recently, the rising price of lead has opened new mines in this territory, and workers who had almost lost their skill are again going "down under."

**DICKEYVILLE**, Wis., on U.S. 118, is 23 miles northwest of Galena. It possesses a large grotto made by Father Matthias Wernerus. The grotto is always open to visitors without charge. To reach Dickeyville drive west on U.S. 20 to East Dubuque, turn right on Illinois 79, which leads to U.S. 118, thence directly north to Dickeyville. The shrine is located one block west of the main street.

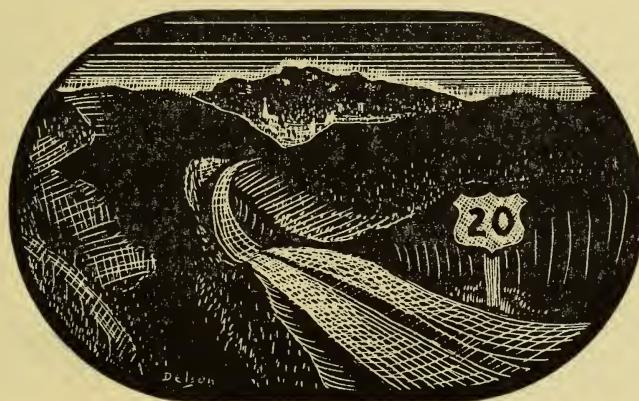
**DUBUQUE**, Iowa, 18 miles west of Galena on U.S. 20.

A TRAPPIST MONASTERY, New Melleray Abbey, one of three such monasteries on the North American continent, is 27 miles from Galena. Drive west on U.S. 20 to Dubuque, Iowa, then for 9 miles southwest on U.S. 161. The road leading from the pavement is clearly marked to the abbey on a bluff overlooking the highway on the right side of the road. Here modern American youths are living under the same discipline which St. Benedict outlined for his followers more than 1,300 years ago. These monks rise daily at 2 a.m. and retire at 8 p.m., 12 of the intervening hours being devoted to prayer, religious service, and meditation, and the remaining 6 to manual labor. They live a communal life, abstain entirely from meats, and observe complete silence save when speaking to their superiors. In July, 1848, Don Bruno Kirkpatrick, Abbot of Mount Melleray in Ireland, decided to found a new monastery in America. Bishop Matthias Loras of Dubuque offered the tract of land southwest of Dubuque, and the foundations of New Melleray were laid in 1849. Father James J. Gormann was the first superior. The institution soon became self-supporting, and holdings were gradually increased to more than 3,200 acres. The farm is one of the finest in eastern Iowa. The monks have a large herd of dairy cattle, an immense chicken farm, and cultivate acres of corn, wheat, hay, and other products. The typical old-world appearance of the monastery makes it particularly attractive. Recently a guest house was erected on the grounds for the convenience of visitors and to accommodate those who attend the week-end retreats. Visitors are welcome every day except Sunday. The Cistercian (Trappist) order is one of the few groups within the Catholic church which follows the strict rule of St. Benedict. The name Trappist is derived from the monastery at La Trappe, France, from whence came the group that founded the Mount Melleray monastery in Ireland. The monks were dispersed from La Trappe during the French Revolution, some of them going first to the

deserted monastery at Melleray in the province of Brittany before the Irish Mount Melleray was established.

St. Donatus (674 alt.), a quaint reproduction of a French village, is 15 miles south of Dubuque on U.S. 52 in the sheltered valley of the Tete des Morts ("Head of Death") River. St. Donatus was founded during the early lead mining days of Dubuque by Luxemburgers. A legend explains the name Tete des Morts, by which the village was first known: two Frenchmen canoeing down the Mississippi were attracted toward two objects on the right bank of the river near the mouth of a small stream, and investigation disclosed these to be two human heads impaled on pointed sticks. In the early 1850's Father Michael Flanmang came to the village, gave it the present name, and built a church and school. To the right of U.S. 52 (which passes through the center of town) are two-story French houses made of natural stone. They stand close to the road and side streets, are built without eaves, and sometimes include stables under the same roof. On the left the visitor may see the old church. A few blocks behind the church, part way up the side of a steep hill is the school, a four-story stone convent. Far at the top of the bluff stands a reproduction of the Chapel du Bildchen in Luxemburg. The chapel is reached by a winding path leading past a series of 14 open-air Stations of the Cross. From the top of the bluff three valleys may be seen winding away from St. Donatus.

SINSINAWA MOUND, five miles west of Hazel Green on Wis. 79, is the site of Saint Clara Academy, a girls' school, incorporated in 1848 as Sinsinawa Mound College. Today the collegiate department of the school is in River Forest, Illinois, but the mound, with the academy on its south slope, may be seen from U.S. 20 when driving from Galena to East Dubuque. The mound may be reached by Illinois 79 from the latter town. The academy is conducted by the Sisters of St. Dominic and the Mother House for this Dominican order for the United States is here. Among the first trustees of the school were the Reverend Samuel Mazzuchelli, who was pastor at the village church at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, and Nicholas Dowling of Galena.



## Chronology

1687—Jontel wrote of mineral deposits along the Mississippi River.

1690—Nicholas Perrot visited mines and established trading posts near mouth of “Fielle,” later the “Galena” River.

1700—Pierre Charles Le Sueur entered Galena River; called it Rivière de la Mine.

1703—William Delisle’s map published in France, charting Indian mines on Rivière de la Mine. During the same year another French map showed the stream as the Rivière de Parisien.

1763—Land east of Mississippi ceded to England by France. Spain acquired all lands west of the Mississippi, by secret treaty with France.

1778—Colonel George Rogers Clark, by his victories over English forts in the region, claimed Illinois Territory for Virginia.

1783—Northwest Territory surrendered to England by terms of the Treaty of Paris.

1787—By ordinance, Congress provided that not less than three nor more than five States should be formed from the Northwest Territory. Eventually five States were formed, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio.

1796—Dubuque granted concessions for his land west of the Mississippi, by Baron de Carondelet, Spanish Governor-General of Louisiana Territory.

1802—Convention at Vincennes petitioned Congress to suspend for ten years the article of the Ordinance of 1787 which prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory. Congress refused.

1807—Congress provided for leasing land containing minerals.

1809—Illinois Territory organized to include what are now Illinois, Wisconsin and peninsular Michigan. Population, 12,282. Seat of government, Kaskaskia, Illinois.

1811—Nicholas Boilvin, reporting to Secretary of War, stated that Sac and Fox Indians had abandoned the chase in favor of the more lucrative mining of lead.

1816—Colonel George Davenport, after whom Davenport, Iowa, was named, shipped the first recorded boatload of lead from the mine area to St. Louis.

1818—John and Tyler Armstrong, Americans, built the first permanent home in Galena. Illinois, with its present boundaries, admitted into the Union as a State.

1819—Francisco Bouthillier, British interpreter at Prairie du Chien, moved into the abandoned Armstrong cabin. Jesse W. Shull, after whom Shullsburg, Wisconsin, is named, Dr. Samuel Muir, and A. P. Van Mater arrived.

1820—Settlement called “La Pointe” by the French, “The Point” by Americans, and “Fever River” in official documents. United States land office opened at Vandalia.

1821—Thomas January, trader and miner, came from Maysville, Kentucky, with his wife and son; built a home along the river on a high point of land later known as January's Point.

The United States Government transferred supervision of the lead mine district from the general land office to the War Department.

Granting of leases on mineral lands, many of 160 acres each, in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin territory, resulted in wide newspaper publicity in Ohio and the Mississippi River valley.

1822—Leases granted to licensed smelters.

Kentucky arrivals for the year included Carneil, Suggett, Payne, and James Johnson, brother of the man who slew Tecumseh. This proved to be but the beginning of a great influx of southerners to Galena.

1823—Doctor Moses Meeker, after whom Meeker's Branch of the Galena River was named, arrived with James Harris, brother of a former governor of Connecticut.

The steamboat *Virginia*, on its way to Fort Snelling with supplies, landed at a rude wharf, being the first steamboat to enter the Galena harbor.

1824—James Smith Hunt, first white child, born in the settlement. First regular store built by Frederick Dent, father-in-law of General U. S. Grant.

Lieutenant Thomas of the War Department named superintendent of the district.

Moses Meeker started the first farm near Galena.

1826—Population, 150.

The first post office built at the corner of Perry and Main Streets; known as the "Fever River Post Office, Crawford County, Illinois." (Crawford County used erroneously, as that county was actually in southwest Wisconsin.)

Committee met to name city. Richard Chandler suggested "Galena," technical name for sulphide of lead.

First school opened by Doctor John Hancock.

Weather-bound chaplain of the Hudson Bay company conducted the first church services in a log cabin.

*Miners Journal*, first newspaper, established by James Jones.

Doctor Horatio Newhall arrived.

Lieutenant Thomas ordered laying out of town lots and thoroughfares.

1827—The Government invited miners and settlers to the town and permits were granted to individuals to occupy and improve lots on condition of the land being surrendered upon thirty days' notice. These were the only titles the settlers had until 1838. More than 300 settlers signed for lots.

Jo Daviess County was organized, commissioners elected and a circuit court established. Richard M. Young was the first circuit judge.

Seven steamboat captains arrived; also Henry Dodge, later a United States Senator; Moses Hallett, who became Galena's first sheriff; J. H. Gear, later elected state senator; Charles S. Hempstead, later a Galena mayor.

Agency of the lead mines removed from St. Louis to Galena.

Lieutenant Thomas succeeded by Major Thomas C. Legate, United States Army.

1828—The John Dowling house, oldest in Galena still standing, was built. There were 195 homes, warehouses and shops in the rapidly growing city, and 46 more under construction. Population 800. Mining centers in immediate vicinity swelled the total to nearly 5,000.

First recorded flood.

1829—*Galena Advertiser and Upper Mississippi Herald* established.

Congressional act authorized surveyor-general of Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas, to lay out town on "Bean" River embracing 640 acres, sell lots at auction, reserving to actual settlers pre-emption rights to purchase land at from \$10 to \$25 per acre. This act was not complied with.

The Reverend Aratus Kent, one of the founders of Beloit College and Rockford College, arrived.

Weekly mail service from Vandalia, Illinois, was instituted by order of the postmaster general.

Galena doctors urged vaccination as a result of case of smallpox on board a boat at the dock.

Jo Daviess Third Brigade, First Division of Illinois Militia, was organized under Colonel J. M. Strode.

1830—First fire-fighting corps organized.

Thomas Ford, later Governor of Illinois, organized a newspaper, *The Galenian*.

1831—Aratus Kent organized the First Presbyterian Church.

Cornish miners began to arrive.

1832—Black Hawk War. Doctor Newhall established a military hospital, received all of the wounded and most of the sick of an army of 5,000. With the war came the Asiatic cholera in its most malignant form. It was the first time it had appeared in the United States. Many who are buried in the old cemetery on the hill were victims.

The Block House was built on the hill. A house now called the Old Stockade, then used as a refuge for women and children, was erected. Doctor Newhall established a drug firm now known as Siniger & Siniger.

Kent induced Amasa B. Campbell to open a school. He was succeeded by the Reverend Magoun, D. D., who later became president of Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.

1833—Black Hawk War halted growth of district. Population of city grew when miners moved their families from outlying districts to Galena.

1834—*Galena Gazette*, the oldest daily paper in Illinois having complete files, was established by Bartlett and Loring of St. Louis. Bartlett was later a missionary to Armenia and began the first missionary paper in that country.

1835—First fire cart purchased by Galena.

The limits of the town extended from Main and Green Streets to Branch and Dodge, extending due east and west from these points.

Galena branch of the State Bank of Illinois established.

Galena Library Association formed. Library contained 825 volumes.

Cornerstone of St. Michael's Church laid. The first resident pastor was appointed in 1832.

The Reverend Charles Samuel Mazzuchelli appointed pastor of St. Michael's Church.

One Townsend built the first house on what was called Quality Hill. Young Men's Society for moral and intellectual development organized, later becoming the Galena Lyceum Association.

1836—Harris Hall replaced the First Methodist Church, which had been built in 1833.

Frink of Frink & Walker sent the first stage coach from Galena to Chicago.

Election held to name city trustees. Three commissioners, Samuel Leach, John Turney and Daniel Wann, later port collector, were authorized by the Federal Government to assume duties previously assigned to the surveyor-general.

As business grew, many persons bought stock in river boats.

Colonel Henry Gratiot, appointed agent to the Winnebago Indians in 1826, died in Baltimore, Maryland.

The boat *Frontier* left Galena with supplies for settlements along the Rock and Pecatonica Rivers.

Eastern boundary of Jo Daviess County defined by formation of Stephenson County.

1837—First salaried officer, the constable, appointed at \$150 per year.

N. A. Drummond and G. W. Fuller patented an improved air furnace for the smelting of lead.

National panic and depression. Miners refused currency. Scarcity of gold forced use of English sovereigns and French five-franc pieces. The sovereign, worth \$4.84, had a trade value of \$5, the five-franc piece, worth 94c, was considered the equivalent of a gold dollar.

1838—Committee appointed to select site for Market House.

Constable ordered to find suitable place for jail.

First circus license issued.

Draft of city charter sent to Senator G. W. Harrison at Vandalia for enactment by legislature.

Trustees took action to prevent filling of river with mud as this threat to river traffic became stronger.

First Grace Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church built.

Galena Temperance Society organized.

Chamber of Commerce organized. Daniel Wann, president, and Major Thomas Melville, secretary.

Meeting held to consider introduction of common school system.

Subscription books for Galena Railroad & Transportation Company distributed.

The Mechanics Association, Galena Beneficial Society, and a guild were organized.

First courthouse established in part of Nicholas Dowling's stone store. Theatrical company, headed by Joseph Jefferson, father of the great Joe Jefferson, opened at the old courthouse.

1839—Licenses issued to three "tippling shops."

Cyrus Denio came to Galena. Later he was appointed by President Lincoln as superintendent of construction at Mare Island, California. Captain H. H. Gear said in *Galena Gazette* that "our internal improvements will have a tendency to fill up the river."

Present boundary of Jo Daviess County established when Carroll County was formed to the south.

1840—Chicago-to-Galena mail stage began operations, scheduling the trip in one day. Fare, \$13.

Elihu B. Washburne of Maine, a Harvard law graduate, arrived. He later served eight terms in Congress, was Secretary of State and ambassador to France.

Meeting called to discuss Illinois-Wisconsin boundary question.

Brandon Tavern built over the stump of the "Treaty Oak," where Henry Gratiot held council with Winnebago Indians in 1827.

Second post office was built.

1841—City charter accepted.

Census takers appointed. Population of city proper, 2,225.

Charles H. Hempstead elected mayor.

City council passed ordinance permitting issuance of bonds to cover \$73,396 indebtedness.

1842—African Methodist Episcopal Church built.

Cadwallader C. Washburne, later flour multi-millionaire and Governor of Wisconsin, arrived.

Toll bridges built at Bouthillier and Franklin Streets. Later carried away by floods.

1843—First parochial school opened.

Galena River was 340 feet wide and three to four feet deeper than the main channel of the Mississippi.

1845—Market House built. Orville Pratt, later Chief Justice of Oregon supreme court, arrived.

George Magoun, later president of Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, arrived.

The largest shipment of lead, 54,494,850 pounds, recorded this year.

1846—Land auctioned to settle claim disputes.

German Methodist Church built.

1847—Present Grace Episcopal Church started. Finished in 1850.

1848—St. Mary's Church erected.

Colonel Edward D. Baker, later United States Senator from Oregon and a Brigadier General in the Civil War, arrived.

Toll bridges were constructed over the Fever River at Spring and Meeker Street. Later the city purchased and operated them without toll.

South Presbyterian Church built.

Discovery of gold in California drew many miners from Galena.

1849—The Reverend E. D. Neill, later consul in Dublin, arrived.

Galena Gas Company organized.

President Zachary Taylor ordered nation-wide fast and prayer on the first Friday of August for the relief of the cholera epidemic.

1850—James J. Hill, builder and president of the Great Northern Railroad, was a "mud clerk," discharging and receiving freight at the Galena docks.

1851—Galena Insurance Company organized.

1852—Stock company organized to build a hotel. Housing shortage acute.

1853—Bank of Galena organized.

Name of river changed locally and unofficially from Fever River to Galena River.

Building boom.

First Methodist Church built.

Total business for the year reached \$6,283,671.50.

1854—Relief Association formed to stop "system of street begging."

De Soto House, destined to become a center of social activity, completed.

Employment bureau, called Galena Intelligence Office, opened.

Salmon P. Chase, Charles A. Dana, Millard Filmore and George Bancroft visited the city.

State legislature officially changed the name of Fever River to Galena River.

1855—Galena branch of the Illinois Central Railroad extended from Galena to Freeport, thus connecting Galena directly with Chicago.

First German Presbyterian Church erected.

Galena residents torn between conflicting sympathies for North and South.

City of Galena issued \$20,000 in bonds to pay one-half the cost of construction of the Illinois Central Railroad freight depot.

1856—Abraham Lincoln spoke from balcony of De Soto House. Stephen A. Douglas spoke in Galena the same year.

City council ordered installation of gas street lights.

1857—Doctor Horatio Newhall in charge of new United States Marine Hospital.

Residence that is now the Grant Memorial Home built by Alexander Jackson.

Daily boat service to St. Louis, St. Paul and intermediate points begun; also fifteen stage lines covering all principal points in region.

Lead output 34,183,250 pounds.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Church erected.

Customs house and new postoffice started and completed two years later.

Galena was the largest port on the Mississippi north of St. Louis. All upper river traffic registered here.

1858—Galena population was 14,000; 3,500 residences.

1859—Second serious flood recorded. Lower streets elevated after this flood to minimize subsequent floods.

1860—Ulysses S. Grant arrived in city to work in his father's leather store.

1861—Mass meeting called to discuss impending war. Volunteers responded and more than 100 joined first company. A second and larger company was formed later.

Flags were at half staff for Colonel Ephraim Ellsworth, once of Rockford, and the first commissioned officer killed in the war, May 24, 1861. Galena's troops in train accident in Indiana. Fourteen killed and fifty injured. Captain Howard, organizer of the volunteers, killed.

1863—Low water suspended navigation on the Galena River. Shipments of lead dropped off and the railroad carried most of the freight.

1864—Galena had a general, one major general, two brevet major generals, brigadier general, and three brevet brigadier generals.

Lead Mine Cigar factory, oldest in the Northwest, established.

1865—Merchants National Bank organized.

Huge celebration welcomed General Grant back from the war.  
Memorial home presented.

1868—Grant elected president.

1869—General John Aaron Rawlins, born in Galena in 1831, died.

1870—Mines in this region were no longer of national importance. Value of Jo Daviess County agricultural products now greatly exceeded that of lead.

Flood waters set a new high mark.

1872—Galena & Southern Wisconsin Railroad Co. planned a narrow gage line to Galena. Council passed ordinance permitting construction through the city.

1873—Marine Hospital deeded to the German Methodist Episcopal Church of Galena by the United States secretary of the treasury.

1874—Tornado hits city.

Turner Hall built.

German drama group organized.

1877—General Grant left Galena for world tour.

1879—Grant returned and city held home-coming celebration.

1880—Flood swept out sidewalks and bridge approaches with an estimated damage of \$23,000. Railroad bridge and Green Street bridges ripped out.

1881—Grant left Galena to live in New York City.

German Methodist Episcopal Church turned the Marine Hospital over to the German-English College.

1885—Grant died.

1889—Galena Choral Society organized.

City gave the old cemetery to Grant Park commissioners.

Continual soil erosion from nearby farms and mines caused the river to fill. Government dredging fleet arrived.

1890—Dam and locks erected in river below Galena by private capital. Later sold to Federal Government.

1891—Grant monument dedicated in Grant Park by Chauncey Depew.  
German-English College, unable to make headway, deeded the Marine Hospital property to the Northwest German Conference for disposal.

1892—Flood caused \$100,000 damage and took one life.

1894—Marine Hospital Building sold by Northwest German Conference to private individuals.

1898—President McKinley and his cabinet visited Galena.

1900—Theodore Roosevelt spoke at Turner Hall.

1904—Grant home presented to city by Grant's children.

1906—Present high school building completed.

1916—Flood caused much damage as Galena River overran banks.  
Last of cargo boats navigated the Galena River.  
Continual silting obstructed the Galena River and the decline in navigation caused the dam and locks to be razed.

1918—Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis spoke at Turner Hall.

1926—Turner Hall burned; rebuilt.

1932—Grant Memorial home presented to State.

1937—City swept by most disastrous flood in its history with estimated damage of over \$300,000 and loss of two lives.

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## Personal Interviews

Leo Lebron, South Bench Street, Galena, Ill.

Harriet Grimm, business manager, *Galena Daily Gazette*, Galena, Ill.

Miss Margaret Gardiner, Old Stockade, Galena, Ill.

Atty. D. B. Blewett, South Prospect Street, Galena, Ill.

Irving Clauer, Prop. De Soto House, Galena, Ill.

Robert McKeague, De Soto House, Galena, Ill.

C. Edward Asmus, High Street, Galena, Ill.

John Clauer, De Soto House, Galena, Ill.

E. H. Lacy, Agent, Illinois Central RR., Galena, Ill.

Mrs. Louise C. Asmus, High Street, Galena, Ill.

Francis Nash, Galena, Ill.

Earl H. Reed, Historic American Building Survey, Pure Oil Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

Miss Anna E. Felt, Galena, Ill.

## **Views of Galena**



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



UNEXPECTED GLIMPSES—CREATES GALENA'S PECULIAR CHARM

STREETS CLIMB TORTUOUSLY





THE CITY THAT TIME FORGOT

St Matthews Lutheran Church  
spire in the distance



VIEW FROM GRANT PARK

GRANT MEMORIAL HOME





CARVED FROM THE ROCKS



OLD GERMAN MEETING HOUSE

OLDEST STRUCTURE STANDING IN GALENA—THE JOHN DOWLING HOME





36 STEPS TO THE BASEMENT



MAIN STREET

THE FIRST POST OFFICE OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS





THE HIGH SCHOOL STEPS



—OF GRECIAN LINE AND QUIET CHARM

*Joseph Hodge House 512 Park*

DRAMA OF THE PRESENT—SETTING OF THE PAST





ELOQUENT OF SOUTHERN ORIGIN

Funeral Home on East side of  
Bend st corner of Perry St.



VIEW OF GALENA FROM THE BRIDGE

GRANT PARK CANNON





HISTORIC GALENA RIVER



VIEW FROM HIGH STREET

OLD WAREHOUSE

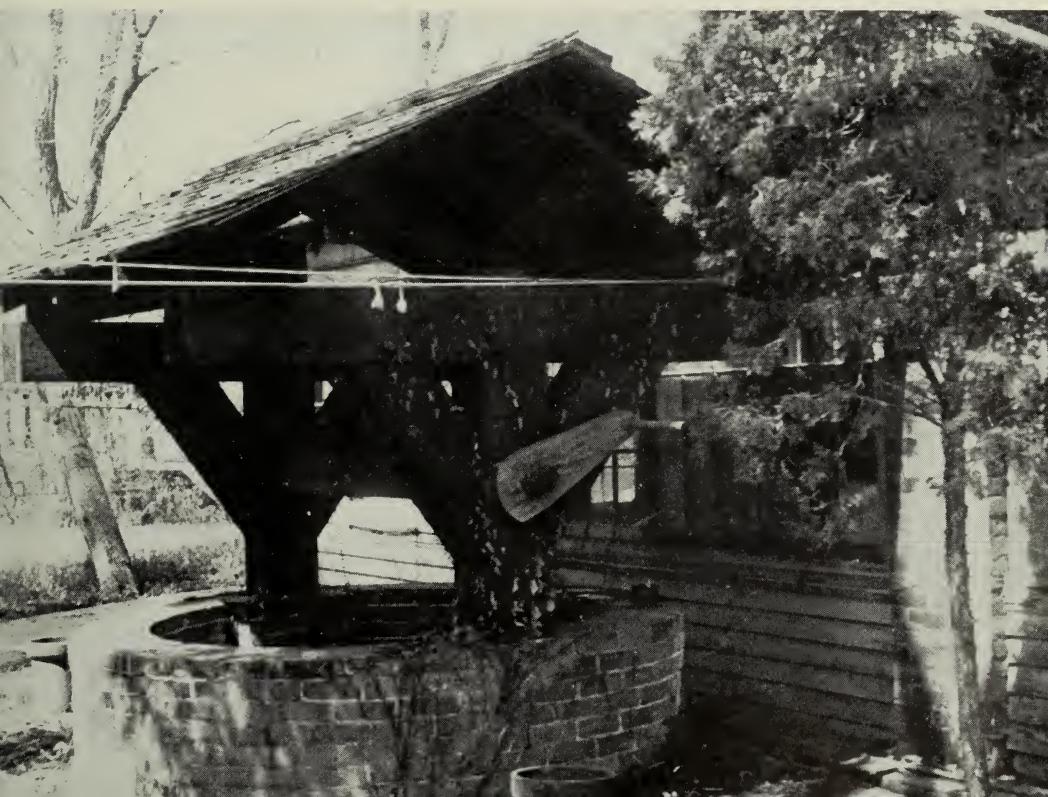
Rear of Grace Episcopal Church  
Spire in distance First Presby



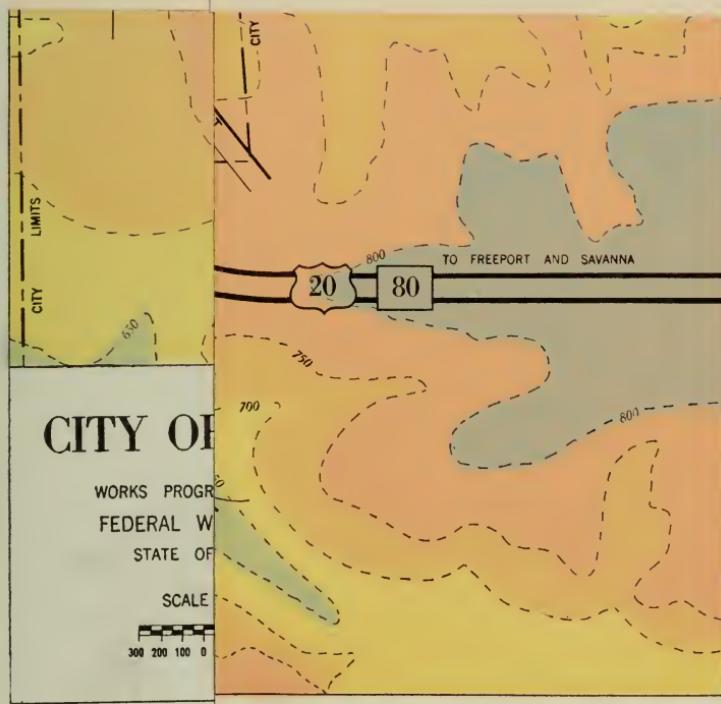


THE OLD MARKET SQUARE

MEMORIES OF THE REPUBLIC'S PAST























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